

# Sarawak Gazette

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## Secretary of State's Visit

The visit to Sarawak, in the middle of the month, of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Rt. Hon. Alan Lennox-Boyd, P.C., M.P., and Lady Patricia, is memorable in many ways. It was the first occasion ever that Sarawak has, since it became a Crown Colony in 1888, been graced by a visit of a Secretary of State. Furthermore, this visit was paid by one whose wide knowledge and experience of colonial affairs is as highly acclaimed in Britain as he is esteemed overseas. The Manchester Guardian, writing at the time of the general elections in Britain when speculations of a change of Government were in the air, had this to say of him, "Mr. Lennox-Boyd could not be removed from the Colonial Office, except with a broken heart." We know this to be a special tribute paid to him as his personal charm, no less than the complete frankness and tact with which he discussed all problems and his genuine interest in and affection for Sarawak (an affection firmly established after only a short stay of six days which included Brunei) have endeared him to all communities.

Few statesmen, if any, who have visited Sarawak, will have the opportunity of seeing and observing so much in so short a time. To quote his own admirable words, "I have heard a great deal about Sarawak and now I have seen this beautiful country for myself. There is a Malay proverb, 'Who can tell the value of what is unseen,' and, as most old races share the same wisdom, there is a Chinese proverb on the same lines, 'A hundred hearings are not equal to one seeing.' Well, I have now seen Sarawak and I know its value. We've been to Kuching—in Sarawak—Miri—in Marudi and then upriver as well. We've been to a Kayan longhouse and a Kapuas river, too, in the Marudi River. We have been to Long Lagan, Long Lamai, Long Hwang. I've talked to a great many people—to the Governor—to members of the Education Supervised Council, the Council Nagri and many others. I've seen something of the administration. I've talked to many members of the Police and the Special Branch, to the Marine Branch, to the Field Force ..... and I hope to see something of the Sarawak Rangers when I am in the Federation in a week's time."

This visit to Sarawak again in his own words has not only given him much pleasure but it has enabled him to have some clear conclusions in his mind of the real effort being made by the Government, if by slow but steady stages, to make a nation out of the numerous living together, in friendship and harmony with each other and maintaining cordial relations with neighbouring territories; of the steps being taken to give recognition to Government's fundamental responsibility in financing all forms of education through the introduction of increased school grants, of measures for local government designed to bring about the ultimate goal of self-government by the people themselves. From the point of view of the people Mr. Lennox-Boyd's visit has meant the forging of a close link in the relationship between H.M.'s Government and Sarawak. Sarawakians must have felt justifiably proud to hear their country blessed by the Secretary of State of Great Britain and

## The Sarawak Gazette

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31st, 1955

## Birth

Dato Anang Opong—At Kangong No. 1, Datoe Road, Kuching, on 4th July, 1955, to Datoe Wanah, wife of Datoe Abang Opong, a daughter.

## Saying for the Month

"Many nations in the modern world have gone crazy. In their pursuit of material progress and power their governments have got involved in political rivalries, quarrels and ambitions which cause their peoples a lot of frustration and misery and danger. These nations know not contentment, because they have forgotten that happiness springs from simple things, and they know not peace because they do not remember that one of the supreme virtues is mutual tolerance and goodwill between neighbours."

The Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, P.C.

described as being able, like the former, to offer a good lesson to the world in goodwill and harmony, so fully lacking elsewhere; and to receive the assurance that His Excellency's Government share the Government's desire to preserve the ancient culture and civilization of all races in Sarawak which have made the country what it is.

## Financing of Education

At the last session of the Council Negri the Woodland Report and Government's White Paper on the financing of education in Sarawak were made available to members. Since then the Report and the White Paper have been widely circulated in the English, Chinese and Malay version. At the forthcoming meeting of the Council in early September the approval of the Council is expected to be sought for the adoption of the general principles outlined in the White Paper and for the implementation of the regulations governing grants to aided schools, as defined in Education Department Circular No. 7 in Ed. 181/1 which has now appeared in print. Until implemented these regulations are provisional proposals only and Government has made it clear that any comment, criticism and suggestion is sincerely sought and will be welcome. If the proposals are approved by Council Negri implementation is likely to take effect from the beginning of 1956.

The proposals have been based on Government's recognition of its fundamental duty to take a more active part in all forms of education and on the consequent fact that the burden of financing education must be borne from central and local government funds. In the past Sarawak has relied very largely on the efforts of voluntary bodies and agencies for providing primary and secondary education. These have achieved excellent results, but it is essential for the improvement and expansion of the aided system that such bodies and agencies should receive increased financial assistance from Government for consolidating and improving their present facilities and planning future development. At the same time, teachers need to be provided with a more satisfactory status, security of tenure and assured careers on defined and competitive incremental scales. As the final goal will be a free and compulsory education system, it is desirable to introduce, at an early stage, uniform rates of fees, in general to be lower than existing rates—which vary with different schools—to relieve harassed parents of unduly high expenditure to ensure sound education for their children. With provision needs also to be made for providing children in needy circumstances to enable them to have additional opportunities for education.

The salient features of the proposals may therefore be grouped together in this order:

(a) Management of all schools conducted by voluntary agencies will be offered grants-in-aid from public funds to meet approved recurrent expenditure after deducting revenue from fees at defined rates and after allowing for approved remission of fees; and up to 50% of approved capital expenditure will be similarly met in areas more economically advanced with the possibility of higher percentage in less developed areas. This arrangement will make the schools less dependent on subscriptions.

(b) Teachers will be assured of entitlements, including incremental salary scales, at the rates applicable to officers with similar qualifications in the Government Service. In addition there will be Responsibility Allowances, incremental credits for previous experience and imposed rates for untrained teachers with twelve or more years of satisfactory service. In order to give them greater security of tenure of their appointments, deans and masters of teachers shall have the prior approval of the Director of Education. Teachers will belong to a Provident Fund while arrangements can be made for its institution.

(c) Parents will be paying their children's school fees at reduced uniform rates which vary with the educational standards of their children and the type of schools attended. For needy cases such fees may be remitted; and textbooks may be given on loan.

(d) An Appeal Committee will be set up to deal with appeals against the use of discretionary powers exercised on the Director of Education under the regulations. This Committee shall consist of the Financial Secretary as Chairman and six members of whom no less than three shall be persons not in Government employ.

All these changes are being introduced, as the circular points out, without in any way interfering with the responsibilities and rights of Management. The teaching staff will continue to be employed by them.

On the whole, the proposals appear to us to be fair and equitable, and their introduction will mark a great step forward in the progress of education in this country. Historically, the system of grants to schools has been based on an old formula and there is no doubt that the amounts are inadequate. So long as no attempt has been made to remedy this, the fact has unavoidably given rise to the impression that Government was indifferent to the fate of the schools. The implementation of these proposals will correct this impression.

On the other hand, the scheme, as it appears at present, has overlooked several facts. It is, for example, illegal to exclude staffs of aided schools from receiving free medical attention when they can get such attention at government clinics without charge, and in any case the scheme makes them eligible for leave, and in some cases free passage, on the same conditions as are applicable to Government servants. We note also that no provision has been made for maternity leave for married teachers and that the equivalent of two-thirds of men's salaries are paid to women, when they have in most cases been receiving from their schools equal pay for equal work with men. The reduction of aided fuel seems to be arbitrary, and does not in fact relate to the ability to pay of the beneficiaries in the lower income group, nor does it take into consideration that the proposed new rates are not always lower than the actual fuel payment in some schools at present. In our opinion the rates should be further reduced. On conversion to the new scales most school teachers will find themselves classified as Uncertificated Teachers in the III or IIIB group. Although there is provision for admission of such teachers with approved series of twelve or more years into the Certified Teachers' Scales, there is no provision for the in-service training of these; with less than twelve years' working experience and in the case of Chinese School teachers, there are no training facilities.

The bone of contention will perhaps remain the teachers' salary scales. The proposals envisage bringing the salaries of aided school teachers into line with government teachers. Whilst this is admirable and provides an improved status and increased earnings for some teachers in poorly-paid appointments, it is generally recognised that most schools of long standing now pay their teachers an initial salary that is vastly higher than what the new scale offers at this stage, and there are known cases of teachers whose basic salaries and allowances together are above the total emoluments they will receive upon the revision of their scale. If the solution to these problems is the introduction of the standard allowance, it might cause great dissatisfaction as the recipients will suddenly lose their normal yearly increments under the old scale which they had a right to expect. Further examples may be cited.

We believe, however, that these irregularities and anomalies, often of a minor nature, can be suitably adjusted between the Education Department and the Management, and we simply look forward to seeing the new scheme in operation.

**Message of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Rt. Hon. Alan Lennox-Boyd, P.C., M.P., to the People of Sarawak broadcast over Radio Sarawak on 13th August, 1955.**

My wife and I are leaving Sarawak today—very sad to say good-bye. Thank you for all you've done to give us a very happy time. I thank you also, Borneo and North Borneo, for all your kindness to us in your own lovely territory. We pray that it won't be long before we make another visit. We've only had six days in Borneo and Sarawak, but they've been very memorable ones. I've always wanted to come here—and now with my particular responsibility it will help me a lot to do my job better.

I have heard a great deal about Sarawak and now I have seen this beautiful country for myself. There is a Dayak proverb: "Who can tell the value of what is unseen"—and at most old men share the same wisdom here as in a Chinese proverb on the same lines: "A hundred blessings are not equal to one seeing." Well, I've now seen Sarawak, and I know its value.

We've been to Kuching—in Sibu (not so far from the airfield)—to Miri—or Marudi, and then up-river as well. We haven't, I'm sad to say, seen a Dayak longhouse, but we've been to a Kayan longhouse, and a Kayan one, too, in the Batang River—to Long Lapat, Long Lubuk, Long Kiang. I've talked to a great many people—to the Governor, constantly, and we think as highly of the Governor in Great Britain as I know how to here—to Members of the Executive Council—of the Council Negri—and many others. I've seen something of the Administration, in which I am so glad to know Malay people continue to play a leading part. I've talked to many members of the Police, and to Special Branch—to the Marine Branch, to the Field Force where progress made in the last 18 months is very real and dramatic, and I hope by no means of the Sarawak Rangers whom I saw in the Federation in a week's time.

I have some pretty clear conclusions in my mind—of the real effort, for example—that is being made to make a nation out of the many races who live here, and of the co-operation between all races, particularly in the smaller places. I know of the Government's desire here which H.M. Government shares—to preserve the native culture and civilization of all places who live in Sarawak. And especially if anyone has any doubts about the stated culture of Sarawak, a visit as I spent to the Sarawak Museum would be a useful corrective.

And it is certainly also the desire of H.M. Government to encourage the most friendly relations possible with all your neighbours—with those in the neighbouring territories of Brunei and North Borneo, with Japan and the Federation, with Indonesia where help and co-operation is very much valued and mutual relations are greatly to the advantage of both countries and in further the most friendly relations with China, with whom we have a long history of close association. From all these contacts, the British Commonwealth has much to gain and much also to give.

I have had talks too about your Development Plan—Agriculture, Forestry, Communications, Education and Health. I've seen something of the remarkable recovery you have made since the war—of the urgent need for example, in Agriculture to make this country as far as possible self-sufficient in foodstuffs, and make it less dependent upon a single cash crop. The danger of this is shown in the difficulties confronting those whom Britain helped has failed to come from growing sugar, and I hope they will be able to help these people in an effective way.

Naturally, I've asked a lot of questions about Education—always important and never more so than now with this world of conflicting ideologies and where also

men and women must be trained to get posts in a very competitive world. I know what good work has been done in the first stage of Education after the war, when the communistic and voluntary agencies like Missions and Chinese Boards of Management did a fine job. This period was a period of self-help. We are now moving into another period. The co-operation shown in the period of self-help is very encouraging for the next stage—which I understand the Council Negri are shortly going to consider. This will be the period when the Government recognises its fundamental duty to take an active part in all forms of education. Then the Government will look with confidence to communistic and voluntary agencies and the multi-racial local government bodies to work with them as partners in this next stage. A new White Paper is I think being prepared tomorrow, and it should be the basis for discussion amongst all the partners—to find the best solution for dealing with new buildings, equipment, and the standing and secure employment of teachers, so that the children of all communities without loss of their traditional language and culture can learn while at school how to play when they grow up a really constructive part in the future of Sarawak as part of the British Commonwealth.

Now in this great family of nations, in which a country like ours, with so many races living in it, can play a really effective part, your future role is clearly marked out. As you know, the British Government have whole-heartedly accepted the admirable principles of good government enshrined in the Nine Cardinal Principles of the Rule of the Rajah, of which one, as you know, is the duty to educate the people in obligations, responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, so that in due course they can be entrusted with the government of themselves. How wise you are in this difficult field to proceed at your own pace and not be hastened in the process. There is, as you know, no light burden on a long road and poor foundations; how wise when they said that where a road bends abruptly you should take short steps. We in Britain have a good deal of experience in this business, and I've been very glad to see the trust that my fellow countrymen obviously inspire and I know you recognise as we do that one does not lose by taking the way.

The development of local authority with jurisdiction over all areas seems to me to provide an excellent training ground for the leaders of the future and it is also a very good training field for the many races which live in Sarawak. This is a small country, but it is about the same size as England. I think as in Great Britain can claim without boasting to have given a good example to the world. In this happy, friendly, generous and hospitable country you are, I confidently believe, have a good home to offer to the world today.

### Notes and Comments

During the month so many events of note occurred that it is impossible to do full justice to all of them. The following is therefore a strictly selective list, chronicling briefly what has taken place. First in the order of visits to this country comes the three day visit to Kuching of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Lady Patricia who arrived by air from Sibu on the 13th, and left for Singapore on the 15th. This visit is described in our leader. Next Professor Vincent and Mrs. Hawley came to Sarawak for a short visit at the invitation of the British Council. Professor Hawley is Professor of Commonwealth History at Oxford University. He delivered a series of lectures on historical subjects during his stay here.

Miss Wilhelmina Tan, Nursing Sister, who had been away from the Colony to attend a Nursing Education Seminar at Sibu, P.M. passed through Kuching Airport on 7th August, on her way back to Sibu.

Arriving back in Kuching are a number of Sarawak Educationists who had attended educational courses in

the United Kingdom. They are Mr. M. G. Dickson, Deputy Director of Education, Alang Zawawi who attended a year's course in education for senior teachers at Winchester Training College, Mr. Ahmad Zaidi bin Suaq Adenan who stayed for 6 years in England and possesses the M.A. Degree, (Edinburgh). He was formerly a teacher at the Sarawak Training School. Also in the group are Mr. Yip Cho Leong, a teacher of the 4th Chung Hua School and Mr. Sim Kok Seng of the Chung Hua School, Keningau, both of whom attended a year's course at Colchester's College in London.

Retiring at the same time from the United Kingdom where he had been taking a course in Co-operation at Stamford Hall Co-operative College, Loughborough is Mr. Francis Low Fook Lay of the Cooperative Development Department.

A large number of teachers are leaving in the last week of this month or early next month on scholarship courses in the United Kingdom. They are Mr. John Timbs, a teacher of Sarawak Training School, who will undertake a year's course at the Boston Hall Teachers' College in Wakefield; Mr. Leonard Song Tuan Long and Mr. Yew Ah Chon, both Headmasters of St. Thomas's School, Kuching, and St. Columba's School, Miri, respectively, who will undergo a one-year Headmasters' Group Course at the Newfield Park Training College, Chalfont, St. Giles; Teoh Aweang bin Haji Zakiell and Mr. Ong Kee Pheng who will take a two-year course at the Dudley Training College, Walsall, in teaching of the Malaysians-Malays, a Government School in Kuching, and Mr. Ong Kee Pheng is on the staff of St. Thomas's School; Mr. Ho Siew Ping and Ms. John Ling Ching Ngiam, both teachers of the Sacred Heart School, Sibu, who will undergo a two-year teachers' training course at St. Mary's College, Twickenham; Miss Ong Sook Chow, Miss Pauline Lai Min Nyuk and Miss Tan Mayu Geok, all teachers of St. Teresa's School, Kuching, who will proceed to the Brighton Training College, Brighton, for a two-year teachers' training course; and finally, Mr. Michael Ilman, Group Supervisor of schools in the Second Division, who will undergo a one-year Headmasters' Group Course at King Alfred College, Winchester. We wish them all every success.

The Bottling Plant of the Green Spot (Borneo) Co., at 7th Mile, Batu Klang, was formally opened on 18th August. Threatening weather earlier in the morning did not stop a large crowd of people from attending the ceremony. The Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, was among the guests who witnessed this. H. A. Hopkins, son of the Acting Financial Secretary, cut the tape hung across the main entrance and declared the plant open. Throughout the creating the installations and machinery in the plant were kept in operation to demonstrate to the visitors the various processes in the manufacture of the Green Spot beverage. Hailed as possibly the most up-to-date and largest light industry in the colony, the employees of the factory work in modern sanitary conditions. The guests moved about the place watching the men at work and asking questions. Freshly prepared bottles of Green Spot were handed round and the guests were later treated to a film performance showing the workings of the Green Spot Factory in Caklora.

On 21st August, the North Borneo Amateur Athletic Association team left on the first stage of their journey to Malaya where they took part in the Championship Meeting at Ipoh on the 27th. The team, which was joined by Sarawak's contingent of three, is managed by Mr. M. V. Simpson, the Brunei A.A.A. Secretary who had flown to Singapore earlier to be in time to greet the athletes on arrival. The athletes proceeded early to Ipoh from Singapore to have a few days in which to train before the Meeting.

Highlight of this month's events was an Exhibition of photographs by Mrs. Hilda Morrison A.R.P.S., entitled *Sarawak Today* at the Chinese Chamber of Com-

merce between the 12th to 15th. The Exhibition which was sponsored and financed by Kedah Ltd., was formally opened by Mrs. A. H. Soden, wife of the Deputy Chief Secretary. Among the many visitors who attended the opening ceremony were the Acting Deputy Chief Secretary, the Rev. Dr. R. P. Morris and Mr. F. Jones, the Government of Sarawak Information Officer, who on behalf of the Government of Sarawak thanked the members of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for making available the building for the Exhibition.

Some 76 enlarged photographs, portraying widely the various races inhabiting this country and their traditional occupations and interests, all expertly taken, were on display. The Exhibition lasted 4 days and drew large crowds each day. The photographs had been exhibited in the United Kingdom for 2 months last year and had also been publicly shown in Singapore and Malaya. They are the reward of unceasing efforts of Mrs. Morrison for about eight years. Elsewhere in this issue we publish the full text of Mrs. Soden's address on the occasion in which she expresses her appreciation of the high standard of art shown in these pictures and of the outstanding quality of the photographer herself.

The Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. J. C. H. Barcroft, left Kuching on the 20th evening in M.V. Zulora on a visit to important coastal centres in Sarawak including Miri, Sibu, Muar, Bintulu and Mukah. Accompanying Mr. Barcroft were a number of leading personalities in Sarawak and Government Officers, including the Hon. the Data Bawang, Penghulu Gua, Mr. Ong Hock Leong, Mr. Ong Kee Cheng, Mr. Thomas Atterthorpe, Superintendent of Prisons, Mr. J. K. Drake, Acting Development Secretary and Mr. Kao Soon Hor, Clerk to the Councils. The party had an opportunity to observe developments in the places they visited and to meet members of the different communities. They returned to Kuching on 26th August.

## Arrivals and Departures

Between 31.7.55 and 27.8.55.)

### Arrived

- Mr. C. V. Information  
(formerly appointed Assistant  
Secretary's Officer)  
Mr. Chian Ho Kuan Poy  
and family  
Mr. & Mrs. M. D. B. Graham  
and family (recently appointed  
Assistant Secretary)  
Mrs. B. Davies and 3 children  
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Morrison  
Mr. R. N. Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Gandy  
Mr. & Mrs. G. R. E. French  
and family (recently appointed  
Director of Museums)  
Mr. V. Mahadevan  
and family (recently engaged  
Tech. Ass't. P. & T.)  
Mrs. H. A. Turner  
Mr. & Mrs. F. Scouller  
Mr. M. G. Dickson  
Mr. Low Fook Lay  
(Cooperative Development  
Department)  
Mr. Sim Kok Seng  
Mr. Ahmad Zaki bin  
Suaq Adenan  
Mr. Yip Cho Leong  
Mr. Alang Zawawi
- Mr. Rajah Bloody on 1st  
August, 1955. On first appoint-  
ment.  
Mr. Rajah Bloody on 1st  
August, 1955. To join Mr.  
Chian Ho Kuan Poy of the P. W.O.  
He arrived on 1st August, 1955.  
On first appointment.  
To join Dr. K. Davies.  
He arrived on 1st August, 1955.  
Returning from leave.  
He arrived on 19th August, 1955.  
Returning from leave.  
He arrived on 1st August, 1955.  
Returning from leave.  
The Rajah Bloody on 1st  
August, 1955. On his appoint-  
ment.  
The Rajah Bloody on 1st  
August, 1955. On his transfer  
from Malaya.  
He arrived on 1st August, 1955.  
To join Mr. H. A. Turner.  
He arrived Singapore/London on  
17th August, 1955. Returning  
from leave.  
He arrived on 1st August, 1955.  
Returning from leave.  
He arrived on 1st August, 1955.  
Returning on completion of  
visiting in United Kingdom of  
Co-operative Development.  
He arrived on 1st August, 1955.  
returning on completion of  
Teachers' Training Courses in  
United Kingdom.

Mr. J. A. R. Anderson	By air on 22nd August, 1955. Returning from Sarawak.
Rev. H. Mrs. D. R. Rawlins	By air on 22nd August, 1955. Returning from Sarawak.
Departure	
Mr. P. H. E. Kite	By air on 6th August, 1955. Proceeding to attend the Commonwealth Surveyors' Conference in London.
Mr. R. R. P. Edwards	By air on 6th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. Fred Ashton (Land and Survey Department)	By air on 4th August, 1955. Proceeding for Service Course in Kuala Lumpur.
Mr. G. D. Becker	By air on 26th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Worthington and family	By Air Asia flight on 26th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. D. W. J. Farrow	By air, via Singapore, on 16th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. W. C. B. Wilson	By air on 16th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. J. S. Blewett	By air on 16th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. Kito Liang Song (Land and Survey Department)	By Air Asia flight on 16th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. D. R. McGillicuddy and family	By air, Kuala Lumpur, on 16th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Young	By Air Asia flight on 20th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. H. T. G. Kirby	By Air Asia flight on 20th August, 1955. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. John Turton (Education Department)	By air on 20th August, 1955. Proceeding to United Kingdom on a 2 year Teachers' Training Course.
Mr. John Ling Ching Nyonya (St. Thomas School, Kuching)	By air, Kuala Lumpur, on 20th August, 1955. Proceeding to United Kingdom on a 2 year Teachers' Training Course.
Mr. Hui Sheung Ping (St. Michael's School, Kuching)	By air on 27th August, 1955. Proceeding to United Kingdom on a 2 year Teachers' Course.
Mr. Awang bin Haji Zulkifli (Education Department)	By air on 27th August, 1955. Proceeding to United Kingdom on a 2 year Teachers' Course.
Mr. Ong Kee Phong (St. Thomas's School, Kuching)	By air on 27th August, 1955. Proceeding to United Kingdom on a 1 year Teachers' Course.
Mr. Yeo Ah Choy (St. Thomas's School, Mr. Leonard Long, Haji Zain (St. Thomas's School, Kuching)	

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to those nearest and dearest to her.

#### MULIAH RAJA ASAH LAMAN

H. M. writes:-

The Lepor Settlement is the power for the passing of Raja Asah Laman. Raja was our "elder inhabitant"—having been in the settlement when it was on Samos Island in 1924 and she came here when the settlement was moved from there in 1925; she died a few days ago.

For thirty years she fought a losing battle with leprosy and is left her hands and feet badly crippled, her sight was affected and, in some cases, her voice also, her nose deviated and her skin the parchment skin of advanced leprosy—she was an example of the extent to which leprosy can cripple and maim. Whole of no danger whatsoever to anyone, the disease had burnt out itself, she was too badly crippled and mutilated ever to leave the settlement and it is doubtful if, after thirty years, her people would remember her. She hobbled around, came for treatment, did her own cooking, cared for herself almost right up to her death. She refused to allow her infirmities to overcome her. Yet, with all this, she was ever a joy to most, she had a good sense of humour, responded wonderfully to jolly talk and had that amazing courage which is her best one privilege to see amongst other sufferers from the same disease. She was a wonderful example of courage and cheerfulness and when she died it seemed that it was because her spirit was too big for the poor crippled body it inhabited.

We rejoice that now, with modern treatment, this severe crippling and mutilation need not happen for the latest drugs, given a fair chance, will eliminate the disease before it can reach those final crippling stages. We regret that she did not live a little longer to be the honoured guest at the birthday celebration which we propose on the thirtieth anniversary of the removal of the settlement to its present site on the 10th of October, 1925.

#### An Account of the visit of His Excellency the Governor to the Bahang Lepor and to Penghulu Ningkang's Gamai Kenyalang In the Ulu Ai

His Excellency left Penang in M.V. Zulver on the evening of the 21st July accompanied by Mrs. Madela Morris, who was to take photographs of the trip, the Private Secretary, and Messrs. Pakowit Radzi and Harry Teoh Siew of Radio Sarawak, who were to record the General Greetings. It was a clear, calm night and Zulver made a good passage to the mouth of the Bahang Lepor where the anchored to await the morning tide.

The 22nd dawned wet and cloudy, weather which steadily worsened as Zulver sailed upstream with a trailing Spring tide behind her. At 8.30 a.m. we reached Sungaipong in pouring rain and docked alongside the town wharf where His Excellency disembarked to be greeted by the Honourable the Resident, Second Division, Mr. A. F. H. Griffin, Data Abang Zin, M.R.E., the District Officer, Sungaipong, Mr. H. Hawley, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. A. L. Lakin and the District Officer, Sandus, Mr. A. M. Phillips, all valiantly attempting to keep dry under umbrellas. His Excellency then walked across to the bazaar to meet Government officers and community leaders gathered on the five-foot way.

After a short visit to the Residency, His Excellency drove to the Court House where speeches of welcome were made by Data Abang Haji Zin, Penghulu Mengnugrau and Mr. Kho Kwang Siau on behalf of their respective communities. In thanking them His

#### Obituary

##### MULIAH RAJA CHENON

J. T. writes:-

Both the St. Thomas's Cathedral Community and the British Red Cross Society have suffered a great loss this week in the death of Madam Julia Chenon. Julia, as she was affectionately known to many, had a kindly and happy personality which endeared her to all those with whom she came in contact. She had friends in every walk of life and she always helped those in need. Her charming smile and gentle, yet strong personality will always live in the memory of those who were privileged to know her.

Julia was a regular worshipper at St. Thomas's Cathedral and an active Member of the Women's Fellowship there. She was educated at St. Mary's School and maintained a close link with the school throughout her life.

She had been connected with the Red Cross since its foundation in Sarawak in 1948 and had helped in many spheres of Red Cross work. Her knowledge was encyclopedic and there are many patients at the Hospital and Lepor Settlement who have profited by the time and patience devoted, both to teaching them this art and by the pleasure she gave at her visits. Lately she had been helping at Red Cross Headquarters where her knowledge of four languages has enabled her to guide everyone who has come to the Red Cross for help.

Great Konyakang in the Ulu At



The Sasanak Ranger Guard of Bawang formed up at the ponykhan on Padi.



Photographs by Shashi Mehta

Pragjika Ningkan.



The Kewyakay procession.



The Kewyakay poles in position.

Photographs by Leslie Morrison



Guests passing between the bamboo fencing and drinking stall.



The bazaar economy on the Aranya.

Photographs by Walter Murnau



A group of young boys on the road.



Examining the pigs' livers.

Photograph by Leslie Morsman

His Excellency said he was very pleased to be in Simanggang, the favourite plantation of the Rajah and which in his day had been the prettiest in Sarawak. His Excellency said that it was true to say that since the war other Divisional Headquarters had had more attention and more funds paid to them in the scramble for money, men and materials. But Simanggang had been patient and now her patients would be rewarded—an engineer would be posted to Simanggang in the near future as Divisional Engineer and another would arrive later. The hospital was inadequate for the numbers who sought attention there, but the architect was now busy and by the end of 1956 it was hoped that the hospital would almost be completed and a large part already in use. Telephones would improve communications and it was hoped before long to construct an airstrip. It was unlikely that very much improvement could be expected in the water supplies within the Division in the near future because many other places were far worse off. However, the possibility of sinking deep wells would be investigated.

His Excellency then addressed the Dayaks. He said, "I know there is a grave shortage of land in the Second Division—due to Bayat methods of farming. This has been a gradual process over many years. Now there are many requests for paddy, but this must also be done slowly, some have been settled in Limbang and some in Lunak, we are now looking for other places to settle you, but we are limited in our ability to do so by your superstitions concerning hill land and it will not be possible to settle you all on the type of land which by tradition you have farmed. There are many stretches of swamp land available but this hill land." His Excellency emphasised that the farms must be an entirely one organised by Government. In referring to the Sarawak Rangers His Excellency said, "They are continuing to do excellent work in Malaya. At the Queen's Birthday Parade in Kuching I presented the new Regional Flag to a Flag Party from Malaya so, whenever the Ranger flag or five other than carries the old Sarawak Flag with the Ranger insignia in the centre so that all will know they are Sarawak Rangers. All of you will be particularly proud of Pte Kinen and Manggo of the Linggo who has been awarded the Commendation-and-Chief's Certificate for distinguished service." The Queen then marched up to the front of the party and upstage in receiving his certificate from His Excellency.

After hearing reports His Excellency visited the Communitarian and Agricultural Department offices in First Alice followed by a short inspection of the hospital.

In the afternoon His Excellency drove out to St. Luke's School where he was met by Archdeacon Birrell who conducted him on a tour of the classrooms, kitchen and workshops before tea in the Archdeacon's house. The St. Luke's Scout Troop then gave a most impressive display of bridge building, one group demonstrating how a wooden bridge could be used to get an injured man across river while another group erected a rope bridge in a remarkably short time and over which His Excellency was the first to cross.

At 7.00 p.m. a cocktail party was given in the Simanggang Recreation Club where His Excellency was able to meet most of Simanggang's leading citizens. This was followed by a dinner party at the Residence.

At 8.45 a.m. on the 23rd His Excellency and party accompanied by the Resident, Second Division, Data Abang Haji Zin, Penghulu Ngeah and Mr. Peter Evans left in M.L. Penui for English where the party transhipped to seafarers for the journey on upriver. After a short stop at Ng Kamping for a glass of tea a boat was made for lunch on the river bank. The water was high so there were no arrangements available, but conditions were perfect for the enthusiasts and by 4.45 p.m. the party had reached Lubuk Antu. Here His Excellency was met by S.A.O., Chief of Kassim, Government officers and local notabilities. After a pleasantly cold bath in the river the night was spent quietly in Fort Arnall.

At 8.30 a.m. on the following morning the party with the addition of the S.A.O., the driver and Penghulu Tembak left Lubuk Antu in a fleet of five seafarers. The river was particularly attractive in the morning sunlight. The water which had fallen a little during the night had cleared somewhat and the banks were alive with the reddish brown flower of the reedmace. Again conditions were ideal, picnics were seldom necessary and we arrived at Padai where the Gawai Kerisayang was being held shortly after 11 a.m.

On landing His Excellency was met by the local Penghulu Ngeah, and by Penghulu Ngah and others of the house and of neighbouring houses taking part in the Gawai. A small Sarawak Rangers Guard of Honour was formed up outside the house by His Excellency's inspection after which he took part in a boleros held in an area on the ground, His Excellency then spurred a pig at the foot of the tongue and followed by the remainder of the gents was led up to the house under a raised platform on which sat a Dayak waving a cock and another holding a young and through a narrow passage of bamboo fencing running diagonally across the area towards the rear rather like a sheep dip and lined on both sides by girls armed with glasses and knives of sand so if one managed to dodge the girl on the right one was caught by her opposite number. Once inside the house His Excellency was escorted to Penghulu Ngeah's room where another boleros ceremony was held. Meanwhile Dayaks continued to file into the house through the gauntlet of girls and sand, some were new arrivals, but for many the party had already been going on for two days and they were beginning to show signs of wear. The house was packed, there were probably about a thousand people present and it was fortunate that the rain was spicuous and the weather fine enough to allow large numbers to sit outside on the veranda. Many were well turned out in traditional dress but the majority were rather scantly dressed and singles, others, mostly returned Rangers, looked quite incongruous in lounge suits and American ties.

In the evening His Excellency took part in the anniversary ceremony in which the evil spirits were chased out of the house to make way for the good ones. Late in the afternoon a long line of singing extempore were performed simultaneously on mats spread out on the veranda.

During these ceremonies teams of singers had been carrying the carved wooden drepalaeng from group to group requesting pigs and chanting the while in a monotonous droning, but as at dusk their voices were drowned by the more spirited choruses of the other singers who carried on until dawn. There was little sleep for anybody that night. At 6 a.m. on the 25th a sunrise was held at which all the good spirits were reported to be present. At 7 a.m. the pigs which had been tied up under shelter on the veranda and fed on the left over from the pinangs and sugar were killed. Their brains were then torn out, placed on leaves and placed around round to the old men for interpretation of the omens.

Shortly after 10 a.m. the three kerisayang poles, each about 80 feet long were carried to the end of the veranda and a chariot and a seat made of dried grass lashed on to each, the chariot about half way, the rest at the top. The first pole was then lowered into the holding platform which had already been prepared and long pieces of robes made fast, a wooden knifelike was then fixed on to the top of the pole to assist the performance in its flight. Meanwhile a procession had been lined up on the top of the pole to assist the kerisayang's spirit in its flight to the heavens. Meanwhile a procession had been forming up at the end of the house and the drepalaeng were carried slowly along the ranks preceded by the elders of the house carrying offerings of food. The procession halted just before reaching the pole where Penghulu Ngeah tied a long strip of pig skin to the back of each of the kerisayangs to nourish them on the journey. The last drepalaeng was then fixed

on the top of the pole and some food placed in a basket tied below the nest. The pole was then hoisted into position with the kerosene facing enemy country which in this case we were assured were the bandit hide-outs in Malaya.

The other two *Angkangs* were fastened to poles adjoined to the first with the exception of different canisters. The second was the most effectively equipped with an aeroplane bearing the Registration No. 'Kota-kant 247' the third was given the doubtful resilience of a domestic fowl. All three poles were hoisted into position with remarkable efficiency, nobody appeared to be in overall charge of proceedings yet the whole operation had obviously been carefully planned beforehand.

It would be interesting to know the reason for the various strings on the *Angkangs* point. The function of the two *Janus*'s was never satisfactorily explained, some Dayaks said they were intended as food for the *Angkangs* others that they were supposed to be climbing up to take the eggs from the nests. Several explanations were given for the presence of the kingfisher, the tool and the aeroplane below the *Angkangs*, some suggested they were intended as maces for the *Angkangs* hence the nest and that they did not assist in the flight at all.

For us this was the end of the Games and we took our leave to return to Lubuk Antu. Up to now it had been essentially a religious ceremony, but with the *Angkangs* safety on their poles the revelry was about to begin though few could have felt in fit condition to start a party. On the way downriver we stopped at Kg. Mireusa for a refreshingly cool bath and lunch. That evening in Lubuk Antu His Excellency inspected the dispensary, the bazaar and the police barracks before a quiet dinner and an early night.

At 10 a.m. on the following morning we left Lubuk Antu for Engkabili. It was still drizzling after a night of heavy rain, the river had risen appreciably and the water was badly coloured, but it was ideal for the outboards and His Excellency's boat made the trip in the record time of 1 hour and 50 minutes. Engkabili had been well decorated in honour of the visit and it was a pity that the weather was so unpleasant. However, it cleared a little in the afternoon and His Excellency was able to walk out along the Macap Road for a short visit to R. Uluang escorted by a group of girls from the houses dressed in traditional costume and bearing garlands. That evening a spear competition admirably organised by the Native Officer was held outside the lake for which all competitors, men and women, were very smartly turned out in traditional dress. Prizes were presented by His Excellency. Later a 'dairy dinner' was held in the lake.

On the 27th after hearing requests in the Court House His Excellency visited the Cheong Hua School where he opened the new annexe. At the reception held afterwards in the school His Excellency said, "I thank you for your hospitality for which Engkabili is famous and I congratulate you on the new wing which I hear has cost £10,000. You, the parents and sponsors, have built it and I hope that you will continue to take an interest in what goes on inside it for the sake of a school is not always reflected by its physical appearance outside. It is up to you to ensure that your children are brought up to become good citizens of Sarawak. Here they will, I hope, be taught discipline and self-confidence. They will be taught how to mix with other races and how worthily to carry on your business when you have gone elsewhere. You have an excellent headmaster and a strong staff but you too must take an interest. In some places I have found that the parents think the children are educated when he has paid his subscriptions or fees. That is quite wrong, your children still exist and you must continue to discharge them. Government too has a responsibility and we too must see how

we can improve the education of your children. Soon you will receive a paper from the Education Department which will show Government's proposals. We consider that the best way is to improve the standard of teaching. We want the best young men to go into the teaching profession. We want to raise the status of the teacher in the community. We want to see that he is properly housed, paid, and has security. We want to lay down what he should be paid and how he is to be looked after in his old age. In this matter Government is prepared to help the Chinese School system. We have set aside £10 million for this purpose. You may hear that Government proposes to take over the Chinese School system. That is untrue, but like everything else it can be improved. We do not want to prevent your children learning about your old culture, but we do want to ensure that your children are brought up as good citizens of Sarawak—to serve this country and serve no other. I hope you will give this paper your fullest consideration and if you require advice that you will ask the Education Officer or your District Officer. Remember you are not the only school in Engkabili. Encourage your children to play games and to mix with the other schools in your communities etc in the bazaar."

His Excellency then walked back through the bazaar to visit the Rajah Local Authority School on its hill-top site before boarding Puan for the trip downriver to Samarapting. Mr. Puan had become too attached to Engkabili so here in a hurry and it took fifteen minutes and half her passenger complement over the side before she could be persuaded to leave herself away from the foliage covered round her propeller. Later in the afternoon at Samarapting the Resident drove His Excellency out along the Brunei Road to inspect the proposed airstrip site, then on to the Agricultural Station. That evening His Excellency gave a cocktail party for forty guests aboard Zohora which was followed by a dinner at the Chinese School.

The next morning His Excellency visited the Ahang Ali School where he saw the children at work in their classrooms and watched a girl's cookery class prepare what was obviously going to be a delicious curry. His Excellency gratified by the Dato then planted two fruit trees in the School grounds. Later he visited the Cheong Hua School where some excellent paintings, both traditional and modern, by the Principal Mr. Tay Ek Wong were on display. At 11.30 a.m. His Excellency inspected a Guard of Honour formed up at the Tressel wharf before sailing downriver in Zohora.

The next stop was Lingga. Here His Excellency was met on the wharf by the Native Officer Mr. Percy Majeng and a long line of local dignitaries. At the foot of the flagpole His Excellency speared a pig before walking up to the verandah of the new offices where addresses of welcome were read out by representatives of the Dayak, Chinese and Malays. He then cut the ribbon across the door of the offices and officially declaring them open unlocked the door with a key handed him by the Court Writer, Mr. Tawil Si. His Excellency then heard requests in Court after which Progress Angkor presented him with two Dayak spears which His Excellency stated should be hung on the wall of the Court House to commemorate the occasion. Meanwhile a procession of Dayak ladies headed by a most unusual dance came into the main offices carrying plates of delicacies which they were served at a reception attended by Government staff and Lingga's leading lights. His Excellency then went across river to visit the impressive King Song Bawang before returning to Zohora. That evening 12 guests attended a cocktail party given aboard by His Excellency.

Early on the 29th Puan left for Kuching with Mrs. Hilda Morrison and the Radio Sarawak team. Later Zohora with His Excellency, the Resident, Messrs. Matlow and Percy Majeng and the Payant Secretary aboard sailed for Sabaya. On arrival His Excellency landed in the motor dinghy where he was met by Ahang Haji

Trofik and walked through the station to the offices which served as the grandstand for the Hari Raya Haji sports. Sabaya was at the sports ground, the sports ground was gay with bunting and the weather was perfect. The highlights of the meeting were the 100 yards "go around" race round a rectangular course and Percy Mairing's performance in the fancy dress football match.

After passing the time His Excellency and "goodby" to Sabaya left in Zukor at 2 p.m. together with the Resident and the Private Secretary for a week-end's fishing. That night was spent at anchor off Pulau Laut. The following morning after an unsuccessful attempt to locate the wrecks Zukor anchored off Sabang where His Excellency later caught a three 18 lb. barracuda and the Resident another of 8 lbs. On landing on the beach for a bath before lunch we were joined by the resident cavalry who paddled out into the sea to meet us.

The next morning's fishing was not so successful. His Excellency landed the only fish, a 3 lb. blue marlin. Before lunch Zukor weight anchor and sailed for Pulau Laut to rendezvous with Fosset and then on to Kuching arriving that evening.

## Sarawak To-day

[Address given by Mrs. A. R. Darier, wife of the Deputy Chief Secretary at the Exhibition of Photographic Art by Heddle Morrison, A.R.P.A., at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Kuching, August 22nd to 25th, 1935.]

In looking at this Exhibition around us, I think immediately of two distinct subjects—the photographs and the photographer.

I am going to speak first about the pictures, and I am going to leave the really important subject, Heddle Morrison, who made these pictures, until afterwards.

This Exhibition has been entirely produced, and financed by Kodak Limited. I suppose Kodak is the best known of all names in the world of photography. It has a very high reputation indeed. You may be sure Kodak is not going to give its name to anything but the best. You have only to look round to see that they have done that here.

The art and skill in these photographs are of no high a standard that Kodak decide to spend a great deal of money in making these large and beautifully reproduced, and in sending them round the world.

The Exhibition was first shown in London, last year, to large numbers of visitors, and this year it has already been shown in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. From Kuching it goes to Brunei—or Sarawak—then to Jesselton, and then to Australia, where it will be shown in all the large cities—and then to New Zealand. Let us hope it may also go to Canada and the United States, where there is an ever growing interest in the people and countries of the East.

So, you see, the image of Sarawak—the many and varied and often beautiful faces looking out from these pictures, is really touring the world, thanks to the enterprise of Kodak. I mention that again because I don't want anyone to think that this Exhibition has been arranged for the honour of the products of Heddle Morrison. She has had nothing to do with it from the beginning and it would not have come to Sarawak at all if the Government Information Officer hadn't chanced to hear about the London show. They wrote to London to ask if it could come here, without even consulting Mrs. Morrison, who may well have been at that time in a remote air or balanced on the top of a hundred-foot wireless mast taking photographs.

Heddle Morrison gets nothing at all out of this show—except, perhaps, the satisfaction of doing a service to a country she loves. She must love Sarawak, or she couldn't make pictures like those of it. Certainly

Heddle needs no advertisement, and least of all here in Sarawak where we are all so proud of her—where we know her as a woman of great courage and enterprise, and as a photographer whose work can hold its own beside the best in the world. She needs no advertisement, but she deserves a great deal, and I am very pleased indeed to be able to give her a little, here at the opening of this exhibition on its home ground.

I know something of Mrs. Morrison's courage and enterprise. My husband and I have known Alastair and Heddle Morrison almost since the first day they came to this country. Alastair Morrison came to Sarawak as a cadet, when we were stationed there in 1918. I don't suppose any woman has travelled so widely in Sarawak as Heddle Morrison, and certainly none has been less busy about where she went or how she got there—and all in the cause of her art. She will do anything and put up with anything to get the very best picture she possibly can—and there must be very little indeed that she doesn't know about photography, after her four years' training in a well-known school of photography and her fifteen years of photographic work in China.

She will, as I said, go anywhere to get a picture, and yet somehow she never seems to get in the way, or push herself forward, or upset her victims, in some photographs she does. One of my most vivid memories springing from those Sarawak days, when Heddle insisted on climbing to the very top of the Jantang lighthouse, at the mouth of the Rajang, to get some pictures, and she did that just after a severe Government officer, mine, had lost his courage half way up and turned tail and come down again.

This exhibition does honour to Kodak. It does higher honour to Sarawak; and it does the highest honour of all to Heddle Morrison who created it, and who by her art makes this land live as vividly in the eyes of her own people and of strangers far and wide. I have the greatest pleasure in declaring this Exhibition open and I hope that everyone in Kuching who possibly can will visit it during the next four days.

## Over the Usam Apau

*Notes:*

The Usam Apau has been defined by T. Harrison as the area between the Pliasian tributaries of the Rajang and the Barus. This area has been traversed first by F. Harrison and D. L. Lovett from north to south along the Dyasai-Meratus system, and then in 1934 by G. White from west to east along the Maran and Sribi rivers. M. T. C. Kirk has also travelled along the southern river while F. W. Rose has visited the northern part of the east tributary.

Accounts of this area can be read in the Sarawak Museum Journal of December, 1934 (T. Harrison) and the Sarawak Gazette of June, July, August, September, 1934 and November, 1934 (T. Harrison) and October, 1934 (F. W. Rose).

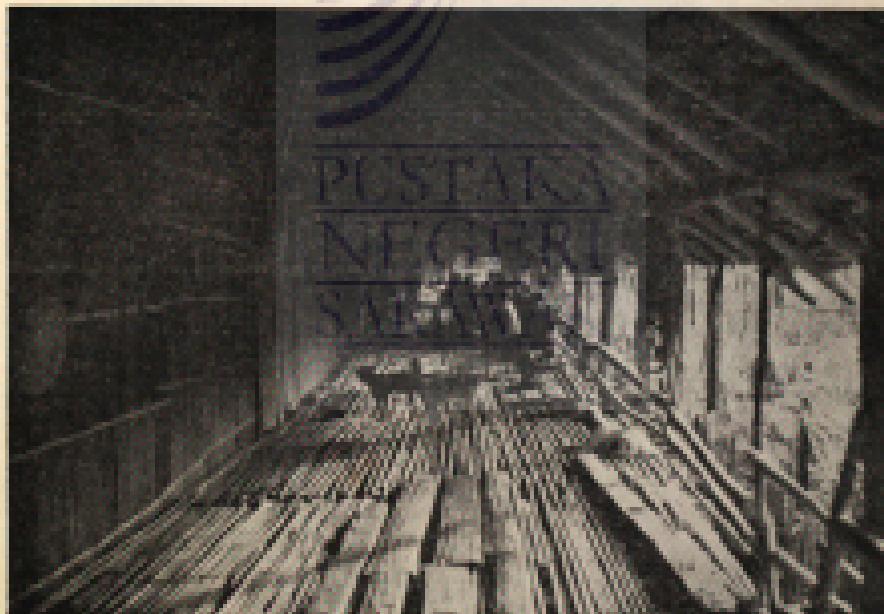
An account of the first crossing of the east tributary of the Usam Apau plasma successfully accomplished by a party of students from Bau Lintang Training Centre and School during the month of July, 1935.

Not being an archaeologist, botanist, geologist, zoologist or other kind of specialist this story must remain simply a story of what we did where we went and what we thought. "We" in this case were a very representative group of Sarawak people. There were sixteen students—five Sar-Dayaks, three Kelabongs, two Lund Dayaks, two Teochew Chinese, one Kapok, one Kreyas' Ura-Kalip, one Kayan and one Sepoh as well as a Chinese member of staff and myself. I call it an expedition because to us it was an expedition into the unknown—and, as far as we could ascertain from the local Kayans and Kreyays in the Barus, they knew of no one crossing this part of the country before.

Over the Years Ago

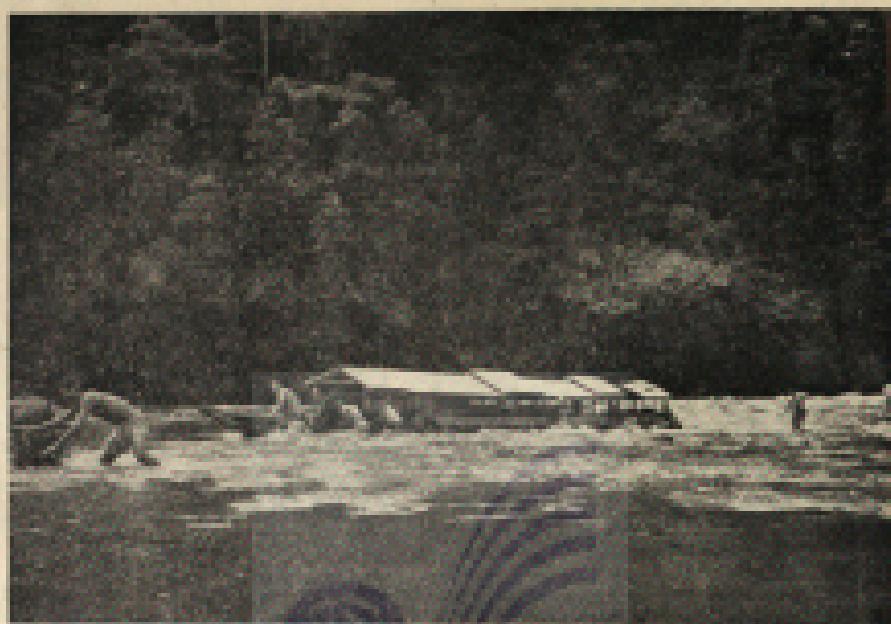


Tenanggong Ong Luan Jia's temporary house at Long San stands behind the charred posts of his former fire house.

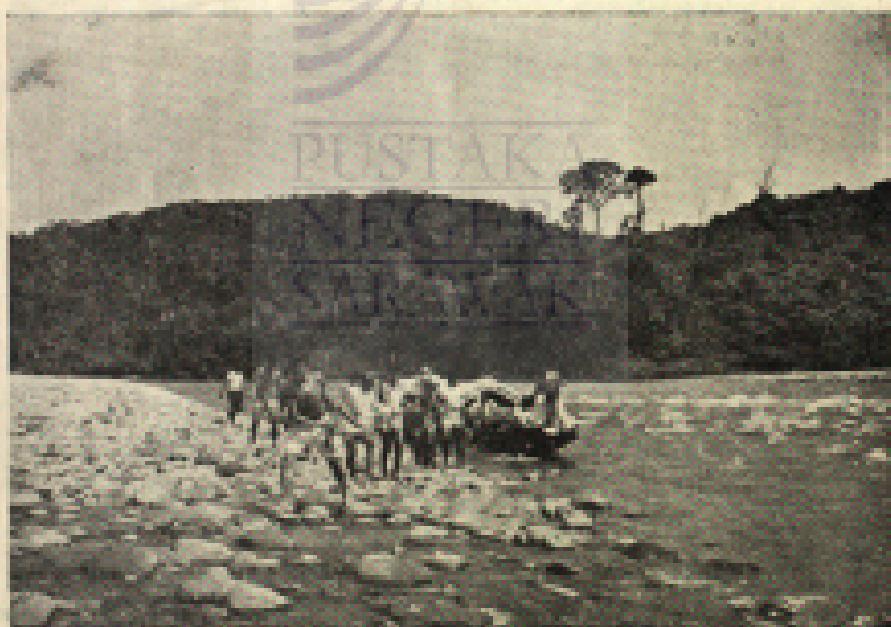


Photograph by Wong Yew Kiong

Longhouse Conference

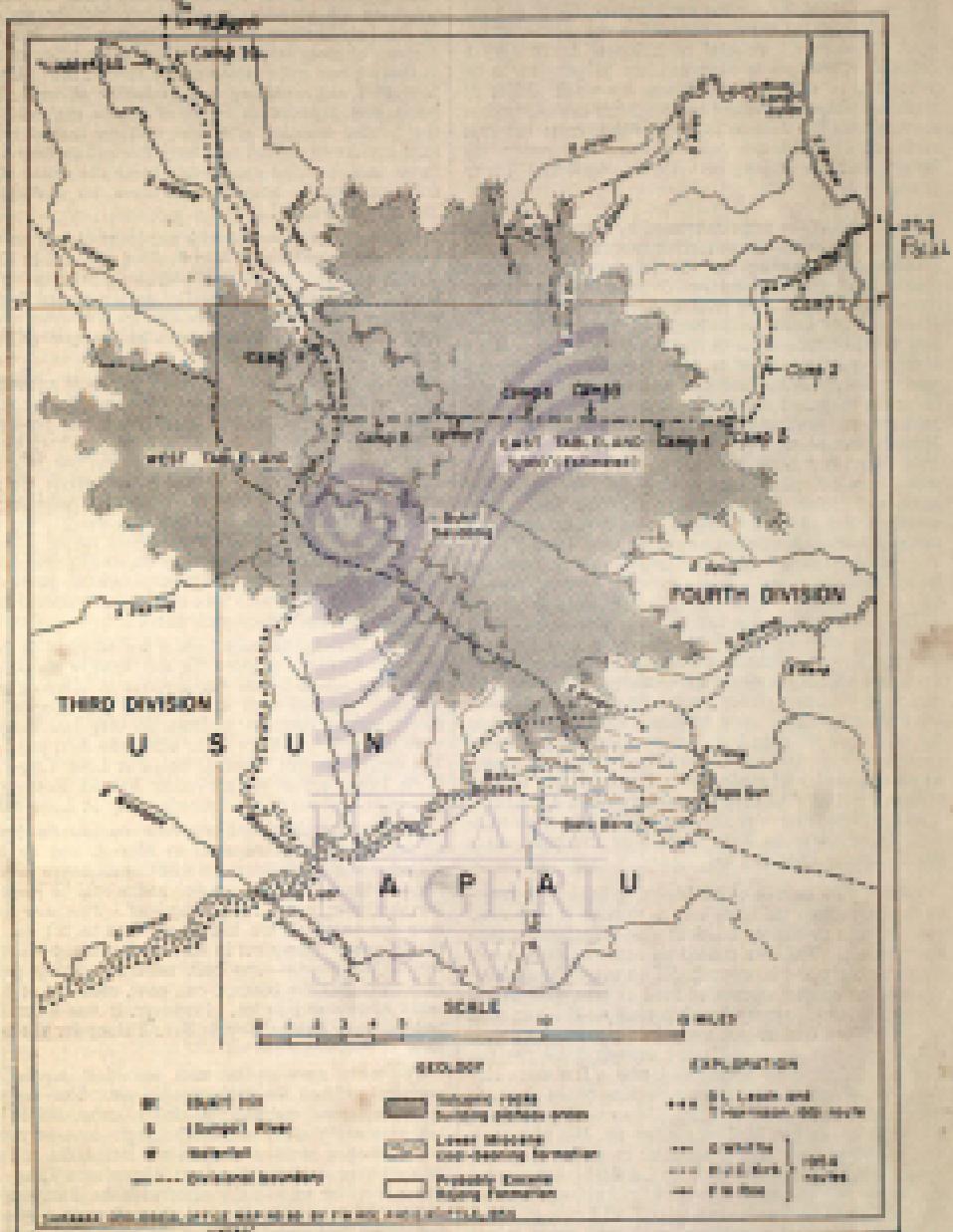


Everyone must get out to pull.



Photograph by Wong Yew Ching  
.....and home up the Barren Rapids above Long Akah.

#### OVER THE UNION AGAIN



Map of the Urum Apus area showing the route taken by the Shih-expedition together with route taken by previous Expeditions.

Many students at Batu Litang live so far up country that it may take them four or five weeks to get home and it is not possible to run normal school terms. Instead, term starts at the beginning of February each year and continues until the second half of November. This is a long period for continuous study so it has been the custom to arrange a short "break" in the middle of the year. This year I decided on a longer break, with a definite programme to carry out, the programme to be a number of different expeditions by small parties of students. The longest and most difficult expedition was to travel up the Batang to Long Patai, cross the east side of the Ulu Apas plateau and return via Belaga and the Rejang or via the Daper and Tepar rivers.

I had read of the surprise-created by one of the Rajahs who had travelled up one river and had come down another thus coming on the inhabitants from the direction of the sun and not from the normal down river end. I had also read articles by Dr. Rose and Harrison and Lewis in the *Sarawak Gazette* (Nos. 1140 and 1141) of their visits to the Ulu Apas area. This kind of journey seemed to fit in very well with an extended break period and so the maps soon came out for more study. I originally planned a route from the Banua, over the eastern tributary, down the Luan and Maran and so to Belaga and Sibu but Dr. Rose and Tom Harrison persuaded me that this was rather a grand tour and might take some little time. I looked again and found that by moving my route just a little northwards I could give myself two choices of return route, either via the Belaga or via the Daper and Tepar. This seemed more reasonable and we went ahead on these lines.

The students were not told of the expeditions straight away but news soon spread and there was great, if suppressed, excitement and many wild speculations as to the routes and destinations were made. The next step was to make some packs for carrying hunting and fishing equipment some "army surplus" waterproof gear; the students were soon busy cutting and sewing. Canvas packs on the back are often very hot and uncomfortable so we designed, and made, rotua frames with a sprung canvas waist band to keep the pack away from the back. These proved to be very comfortable in use, as is comfortable as thirty or forty pounds on the back every day for many days can be.

Letters were written to Residents, to District Officers, to ex-students on the estate and to "Uncle Tom Cobbley and all" who needed to know of our intentions (parents/sons). Then we started on rationing. How much could we carry and how much did we need? Eventually we decided on the amount of food to take with us for the preliminary journey by ship and junks and also how much we had to put away in our packs to carry. We found that we could carry enough food for the twelve days' walk we anticipated, plus a few extra clothes and, of course, my cameras, making packs of about thirty kilos each to begin with. They would get lighter, however, as the load was taken up. We also took a light canvas fly-sheet for a shelter cover at night, and an aerosol for bright observations, a field compass (for our uncharted journey), a pair of field glasses, four or five shot guns and ammunition and all kinds of other oddments. We had a practice pack and most things seemed to fit in fairly well.

On Thursday June 30th, 1955 we were roused down early in the afternoon to board the M.V. Day Tomy Sury which was leaving Kuching at 4:00 pm. (we left at 11). In the waiting period we watched some Sarawaks who had been padi planting at Banting and were now returning as tuk-tuk passengers to the Batang in the Banua. They had very large loads of full of padi and other durums. We thought that they must have sailed them to the wharf as when we tried to lift them we appeared to make no impression whatever. However when the last batch came in as they had no difficulty in whisking them on to the deck.

The sea trip to Marudi was full of interest for the students as many had never been at sea in a ship before. The difference in the flashing sequence between different light houses, picking out landmarks with the aid of my field glasses and the chart borrowed from the bridge, watching the propeller churning up thick leaves and in the very shallow water off Tawang Sait, all were matters of great interest. Even the day's enforced wait at Bintulu was put to some use by visiting the "Marudi" Saw Mill and watching a tager maker at work, both being new experiences for most of the students. On the Sunday morning after our sail we moved half-a-mile upstream to unload two forty five gallon drums and three small packing cases—this being the cause of the delay apparently because there were no workers on Saturday afternoon.

However, we proceeded with our journey only passing to off load passengers at Meri at three am. and at Kuala Banua at eight thirty. The sixty mile journey up the Banua was also full of interest as we passed logging stamps, oil well drilling operations on the water's edge, carts of logs being hauled down to the saw mill and many other such sights.

We arrived at Marudi at seven pm. was announced by long, reverberating blasts on the ship's horn which called the District Officer away from his residence deck and he was on the little floating wharf by the time we arrived. He had been busy on our behalf so that a pony was ready to take us on upriver the next morning and, after a few inevitable, last minute purchases, we were able to leave before midday. We were now the District Officer's messenger taking advance notice of the Secretary of State's impending visit to the Banua—where he would stay, where a party was needed, where he would take meals, who should come to meet him and other such details.

These were the messages which we delivered to Penggul Gun when we stopped for the night in his political longhouse where I had the surprise of sleeping on a hospital type bed with a mattress. The dancing and entertainment kept the students up very late but they were all ready to start quite early the next morning. The messages were repeated again at Long Lanta and Long Layap before we arrived at Rumah Bering for the night and again the following day at Long Patai.

Shortly after leaving Long Patai we met the Native Officer returning down river to Marudi and we both pulled into a dugout as we were to exchange ponies because his was a little smaller and would be safer in the shallower water further upriver. This was fairly easy for us as all we had to do was to lift out our rather sturdy durung but in his case it meant persuading out of the ponies one by one, until there fairly peacefully settled on the bottom, one goat, numbers of bows, sticks of rice and so on. However, it was soon done and we were on our way to Batu Litang for the night stop.

The next morning we met our first rapids and managed to break the first propeller pin. Now we were in the hills and the swift flowing river would lie in and out past rocky cliffs and sweep jungle covered banks. We cooked a midday meal in the old house at Long Akah before making the short distance to Long See where we were to stay the night with the Temengong. It was said to us the news of charred posts where his fine house had once stood on the river bank in front of his present temporary house.

Our sixth day on the Banua took us up what seemed to be an endless succession of rapids many of which necessitated everyone getting out to pull and haul the ponies over the rocks against the rushing river. Our ponies was heavy but not as heavy as that of the Kenyah trader going up river from Long Akah that same morning. He was going up to meet and trade with the Putaus. He said that he had traded with them before and that last time he had told them that he would return to the same place in one hundred and fifty days. So that they would know when to meet him he gave them pieces of string with one hundred and fifty knots so that by untangling one each day they could

calculate one time. We came upon him stuck on one of the rapids and it was only by the combined efforts of both our parties that we at last managed to get the heavily laden paddle clear. He returned the help and our paddle was quickly floated through. In the afternoon we reached Long Phat, our first destination and the starting point of our real journey. We spent the evening discussing our journey. Could they take us up the Maja in their paddle? How many paddlers would we need? Could they supply a guide to take us up to the Ulu Apas? They had their questions too. Why did we want to go over this plateau? They knew no one who had crossed there before. If we wanted to go to Bilega surely it was better to go round? They thought that it was a more odd thing to do for fun. If we liked it that way they could always go up to the plateau but after that we should have to look after ourselves. There were hundreds of dogs in the long house—dogs used for hunting—and as the time of their evening meal drew near they gathered in pairs outside the doors of their owners. It then seemed that a chosen cheer leader started a peculiar noise—a mixture of a bark, a howl and a snarl. After a minute or so of this solo effort all the rest joined in full chorus, a noise soon to be forgotten and a noise which would turn the Malayan dogs green with envy. Next morning the Ilonggoong arrived and we had more discussions finally deciding that we should need ten paddlers, each with two canoes, to take us, our hunting and two guides up the Maja. The Sungai Maja is a small tributary of the Bharan flowing down from the Ulu Apas and we were told that we could travel the two days by paddle but that we should then have to walk.

The men were to spend the day preparing their gear for the journey. "We want to match." That's what four or five paddlers on the bank were appearing to be very was, or should we say were, worried but not sure. We were getting used to this sort of thing so we just went away to think about something else. Late in the afternoon a short time before dusk a few men appeared and started operations. Perhaps, we thought, if they can find a few more paddlers we may be able to start in the morning. The Tua Rumah assured us that all would be ready and that we should start early next morning.

## American Journey

### (II)

December 14.

The cold awoke me. The brazier had gone out and paper walls do not keep out the cold. While I shaved, breakfast came—the same as lunch—chick only rice, soup with system (or mushy I think), rice, tea, grocery. The station at 5.30, for the express to Tokyo.

All the way, all the nine hours, men and women working—in fields, factories, houses, gardens; everything small, neat, green still in the gardens; drizzling, smoky grey in the towns. Wide river beds almost without water because it is all taken for irrigation. People, work, everywhere, and the mountains always behind. In the afternoon bed on bed of tea, light, small bushes. Never Tokyo—around Asami—cascade of gold lantanas all over the hills, and, in between, Fujiyama peeing water and never till we passed across the hem of her skirt. More beautiful than I had imagined possible. Snow at least a third of the way down the sweeping sides, and the evening sun turning the snow first to gold, then to rose, at last to violet and again grey.

All the railway systems I know could learn from the Japanese.

First, the excellent custom of marking up, clearly in black and white on every station, below its name, the name of the station before it and that next to follow. Second, the absolute dead punctuality, which I am told never fails. At Kyoto station the local-breaker told us the platform to which the train would

come. On the platform there is a large clear number opposite which your coach will stop. As you wait there the local-speaker tells you the names of all the stops to the end of your journey, and the time of each. Each was exactly fulfilled. The coach—and it was second, not first, class—was dusted throughout, and the floor wet-mopped, three times by the conductor during the nine-hour journey, and all the rubbish swept up and away.

At 6.25, dead on time, we came into Tokyo and in a few seconds the Assistant Information Officer, Hamish McGhie, found me and drove me to the Redman's—the Information Officer's—house in the Embassy compound and straight on to a cocktail party at the Consulate in Yokohama, and when I got home having been given a holiday night off I found the sweet comfort in my room in this large, solid Counsellor's house—in the compound, built after the 1923 earthquake, facing directly the moat that surrounds the Imperial Palace. December 15.

Met the Redmans for the first time at breakfast and was quickly at ease—he is sterling, quick, sure, full of knowledge, interested in things and knowing why he believes; twenty-seven years in Japan. Went with him to the Embassy, continuing the things I wanted to know and do. Telephone went. Secretary and Japanese staff—men nothing seemed any trouble and everything happened. At 11.0 I walked back to the house to take sandwiches and Dubonnet with Mrs. Redman and her three elegantly dressed puppies, and at 11.45 we drove off, ascended the moat and its embankment grass slopes to the Kabuki theatre for the matinee at noon. Theatre large, square and full, 88% women, understandably at that hour. The performance opened with an elaborately staged and dressed classical play, a complex story about a gardener and a princess. All the players are men. The Meiji-as theatre, rebuilt since the war. At the first interval of twenty minutes we were behind and below the enormous back-stage platform, revolving stage, curtains, bows,等等 everywhere; we went to the dressing-room of one of the leading actors, Baku, one of the most famous in the country. He greeted us warmly, looking like a shy don, spectacles on the stage white, vigorous, ferocious even, with a great range of voice. We went back for three long and intricate dances, with a string band of about eight players on the stage. Another interval, and a modern play in three scenes. Back to the shop of the Chingy, and home to a dinner-party.

But before this there had occurred the story of the John portrait.

When he stayed with me in September Angus Morrison told me that before the war a Japanese gallery had bought an Augustus John portrait of Angus's wife, done when she was Kathleen Tolson. He would very much like to know if the picture were still in existence. I mentioned this, diffidently, and as the last and least of my wants, to Vern Redman at breakfast. He took a note and said he would enquire. When we returned from the theatre he said "so far as my enquiries show, there is only one John work in Tokyo. It is a drawing of the head of a woman, with no name given, and it is in private hands. It will be available for us to see at 3 o'clock, at a house just round the corner from here."

We drove to the house, a small one-story house behind a high wall in a narrow side street. We were greeted by a portuguese girl (in Japanese dress) and a portuguese man who might have been a house-manager. Tea and spice bats were served to us after several low bows, and in a few minutes the drawing was brought in as we sat in the small room, rather like a superior seaside boarding-house parlour, with shiny green chairs and chaise. On the walls were a large George Frederick Watts oil, a young girl crooning long tones, some pleasure black and white prints in an emerald pattern, probably French; a good small telescope; a very attractive Japanese impressionist, small, three or four shadowy men at a table; and a larger

work, of drifting magnolia flowers, white on a dark brown table. Seated on white upholstered mats on a side-table were a chaff-muslin vase, a hideous brass-pewter clock of about 1700 and an even more dreadful pot-pourri with chaff at the ceiling.

The drawing, pencil, is sad, young and beautiful. I think it must be the one I sought. It came from the Blithmarks Collection, the owner of which went bankrupt. The girl gladly acceded to a suggestion that I should photograph it in the morning, and we left.

December 16

To breakfast there came Comptorthwaite, Assistant Financial Secretary, Hong Kong, on his way back to HK after spending some time at our Embassy in Washington and lecturing. Rodman heard of this and at once invited him to meet me; kindness of a quite exceptional kind. C. had heard of my coming to America, both in San Francisco and at Phoenix, where he had visited the School of Foreign Trade. He was most pleasing and helpful. Found little aggressiveness or idealism, a firm belief that all colonies are taxed by the United Kingdom Parliament; acknowledge that any colony may in anything pursue any policy in any way differing from the home government's, much courtesy and friendliness.

Drove to Yokohama, an hour of what must surely be one of the most hideous roads in all the world. Not calling till 6.0 a.m. tomorrow. Walked into the town, many winter evening, cold.

Mrs. Rodman told me how one day when she was walking the paddocks round the Palace most one of them caught and killed an Imperial duck in the sight of two of the police on guard. "While I was wondering what to do and what would happen, a Japanese policeman came and spoke to me. I didn't know him but I asked his advice. He thought a little and then said, 'If it has been a fish in the nest that had been taken, I think you could have had no report in and bear the consequences of whatever action the police, being officially informed, would have been obliged to take. You see, this fowl is the Emperor's; it is in his name and it could not ever go anywhere else. But the duck could fly. It could get away when it liked. It could not be wholly the Emperor's. I should leave it where it lies. The policeman has seen, but I assure you he will not take any action if you do not report the incident to him.' She did as she was told and nothing happened. The policeman turned away."

December 17

We sailed at 8.0, on a sunny morning. As we moved out of the harbour Pajiguma rose, a pale orange-white rose, across the line of smoke that hangs over the port, and I watched her till there was nothing else in sight, and at last she too vanished. But because I saw her, and because I watched, I shall, so the legend says, come back to Japan.

The sea has been freshening all day. The sun is setting angrily to the south-west of us now; clouds of wave and spray pour over the deck.

December 18

The shortest day, but there will be two, as we reach the Date Line today.

The sea is rougher this morning, and the sky greyer, yet the ship's motion is much less. But waves climb overboard and walking on deck is aerobics.

Later—I had to give up walking because of the heavy seas coming over. Sea and sky very grey. I think the rainlessness may do one good. I've done a lot of work on the lectures.

December 19

Still grey and wet and the wind strong. It is well to make a journey this way, to restore one's sense of space and time, warped by air travel.

December 20

After the sodden night we have so far had, a lovely morning of bright sunlight and wistfully, very untypical clouds. Walked for an hour and a half and was greatly refreshed. Finished my lecture script.

December 24

We had a Christmas dinner, a Christmas tree and candles, and the captain and the chief officer joined us. Captain Hansen told us he is 50, and went to sea in 1900, which looking at him is hard to believe. The ship began to roll steeply. We ate in difficulty, but we ate, both turkey and duck. After dinner, brandy, cherry heering, cigars and nuts in a large glass bowl jumped from the table and scattered far, and the bowl broke into many pieces. We wrapped the Courvoisier and the cherry heering in caskets and held them in the bottom of an armchair.

December 25

Yesterday fourteen seagulls were following us by the evening. They would fly in formation as far as a point a little ahead of the bow, and then wheel and scatter and land the seven. I said to the captain at dinner, after describing their movements, that they must be Canadian gulls. "Oh yes," he said, "they're Canadians alright. They wear the Canadian colours," at which S. jumped in violently and said, "Have the Canadian gulls a special colour then?" and the captain answered "Certainly. Haven't you seen the red white and blue feathers on their necks?" S. replied that he had forgotten to bring an overcoat and so he had not been out on deck.

In reading Archbishop Temple's *Principles in An Angel's Gospel*, in the introduction he writes—

"It is by the faith of others that our faith is kindled." How true those words are robbery, surely, can have more vividly and profoundly shown in his life than their author. Certainly it was William Temple, his example, what he did, hearing him speak and preach, meeting him at last and talking with him only a pair or two before he died, that confirmed and purified my faith. Knowing him, it was utterly impossible not to do one's utmost to keep one's promise to be Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto one's life's end.

And these words confirm, too, what Nigel Berney said in the talk we had about the work of the Mission—that it is much less what the priest says than what he shows forth in his life that matters, but I have found that, in the priests I have known, the two things are less correlated than one might assume: the man who is articulate, and who knows how to prop up proper respect to the Liturgy, very often shows forth his faith and his love and understanding for his fellow men as much by his easy voice and words as in his deeds.

December 26

We landed last night for the first time to the radio news from Los Angeles. The announcer said that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of the Anglican Church, had preached in Canterbury Cathedral.

There has been a Christmas tree at the head of the mast for three days and the strong winds have not blown it down today. The gulls have followed us and as I was watching from the bridge at dusk they left us. The sun shone all day and the sea has been calm and blue.

December 27

At 1.0 I got up and went out to watch the most blinding of sunrises as we came into the wide approach to Vancouver Harbour. The open tier of red, orange and yellow bands stretching far across the sky behind the mountains. Ahead of us the mountains beyond the harbour and the city, all of them powdered lightly with snow.

I went to Christ Church Cathedral, to give thanks for the safe ending of this long stage of the journey, and a prayer for my friends everywhere—those I have left and those I go in.

December 28

An wintry a day, I think, as ever I remember, but perhaps my recollection of winter days is dimmed. It has rained all day, and there is snow even on the lowest hills across the harbour. A thin, almost solid sort of rain, blown by enough wind to make it sing.

Next arises after writing to George Field about Sarawak pepper imports into Canada as the result of my talk late and hope something will come of it. Had a long and leisurely hair-cut and shampoo and the barbers shook hands and wished me well when I left, and then the very engaging dark girl at the cash desk began to talk, when she realized I was not Canadian. She told just how much she, too, enjoys travelling, and that the country of all others she loves is Peru.

After dinner I walked on deck to watch the unloading and in a few minutes I was met by two badge-looking men in large hats with smart clothes and fat brief-cases. One asked me when the ship would sail. I couldn't calculate what they were—customs, chandlers, detectives? One said, "Is it a Norwegian ship?" Danish, I answered. "We try to come on every ship in port, to do necessary work for Intervenor's Whiskers." I said I thought they should not be an officer, and showed them the way. The second one gave me a magazine and said, "Reading for the voyage. You are a Dane, of course, but you understand English." I bore away when turned out to be a copy of a monthly magazine called *Austerlitz*. It announces that "no coverage is as broad as the earth and as high as the heavens"; and the first article is called "Christian makes dollars but no sense."

Among the other articles are pieces entitled "Crossing up the Male—the Secret of being Well dressed", "Kananga, a Common Language in Southern Africa", "Air-conditioning", "How much travel is Christmas—Jesus was not born in December".

#### December 29

We sailed at 11.30 p.m., and I watched till we had left the inner harbour, gone under the bridge, and turned away from all the lights. I came away cushioned in my affection for Vancouver. It may be a distant, remote place to live in but to visit a delight not all over again.

At dawn this morning—and dawn was late and grey—there was still land on either side of us, sand-patches to the east, and Lighthouses flashing. The sea was grey-choppy, and a fog-ring gradually closed in around us. Now, at noon, we are ploughing through a small circle of grey sea, and grey sky unbroken by any lighter gleam or colour or even of variation in the density of its uniformlessness. I walked on deck till a wave came and hit me full in the face.

#### December 30

In Man on Air Kaitay I read, "No following life is like the one it followed. That states perhaps the uttermost prognostic of death." It is true, but surely the point is not so much that no following life is like the one it follows, as that it should not be able to acquire, take over, preserve, improve, the qualities and experience of the preceding life, the wisdom, the goodness, the kindness, the knowledge, the courage, and the calm.

Mr. Wohler, the generator engineer, offered to show me the engines this morning. He is the representative of the firm who built them and must travel with the ship for a year to ensure that the generator does not fail. After that time, any defect is the company's responsibility.

The engines are enormous and clean and complex far beyond understanding. Wohler does not speak much English and so his explanations, blustered within an inch of my ear, didn't convey much. But I was particularly interested to walk along the tunnel, about a hundred feet long, that carries the propeller shaft from the place where the power is generated to the propeller. I could imagine claustrophobia if one stayed there too long, with the Pacific air below one and all that steel above, and I had time to try to imagine what the feelings could have been of the men during the war kept all the time working in places like that, with not only the deep and often stormy sea below and about them, but mines and torpedoes too.

I strolled on the bridge all evening in the rain. We saw the first lights at about 10.30 and soon we stopped for the pilot's boat, a graceful white sailing cutter. The

lights quickly came nearer and grew into a long coloured band stretching far southwards. We went under the Golden Gate Bridge about midnight, the heavy fog lying horizontally just above the tops of the two high suspension piers. Within the harbour the lights of the city and of all the towns of the bay shone so brightly that the sky beyond looked like day. Everything so bright and clear—perhaps a little harsh, in this city of St. Francis of Assisi, who spoke to his animals and birds in a voice how many, now, would hear, and who wore a cloak of a colour these neon lights could hardly reproduce?

#### December 31

We landed at 9.00 with our bags, and stood in the shade away from the falling rain. A friendly customs man came. He asked about the pepper I had declared—the bottles of papayacoma from Sarawak. "No duty on pepper," he said, "but I'll have to charge you on the bottles." "Old whisky bottles," I said. "Well, they are broken; how much do you think they are worth?" I didn't know. A dollar? He agreed; looked up bottles (glued in his catalogue), and charged me 13%; 13 cents on each bottle. He said no word about things made in China; opened nothing; Walter Prendergast drove his car to where the bags were, a smiling wife piled the baggage in and in a minute, no more, we drove away.

The day went by, under grey rain, in talking, unpacking, laughing from noon till 4.00, at a pub, the Blue Moon, with Walter and Tom and Prendergast. Tom is the Curator of the Palace of the Legion of Honour, one of San Francisco's fraternal associations and an gallants, and his wife—the poor, brilliant wit, tightly clothed; both of them tall, and their lovely daughter, also Prendergast, 17.

#### January 1

San Francisco is itself bright sunshine, pale but lovely blue sky, white and shining everywhere. It is St. Francis' City. A holiday so far put off all work. I began to realize where I am again to think, feel, and act more occasionally not far.

Lunch at the Big Ben Fish Grocer with Robert Alibabka, who visited Sarawak in 1952, and is one of the most pleasing and wise Americans I've met. Much talk of South East Asia. Formosa was the most glistening, and Sarawak the most exhilarating, of all the places he had visited on his tour.

#### January 4

I was told of a very wealthy but very charming and only slightly more Texas woman lately visiting here. She came to a cocktail party in the simplest of blue frocks, with a ring, earrings, and necklace of star sapphires. A fellow girl talking with her admired these greatly and said that almost the only stones the blood more than star sapphires were star rubies. "Oh," said the Texas lady with perfect simplicity, "I wish I had known; I would have worn my star rubies."

I went to the Rotary Club at the Palace Hotel, where they used to drive carriages into the centre hall of the building, and where President Harding died. I should describe it as more of a mansion than a club. About 500 members collected in the Rose Room, really a little pink, in a temperature that made Kaitay seem almost arctic. A very efficient and experienced young woman at a phonograph machine asked my name and address, and stamped them out on a large card which she handed me to pin on myself. "I was then led to a table by a pleasant grey-haired fellow who said he was feeling freeze to death—"23" at my home this morning: never known it before in San Francisco". "We are fried chicken and apple pie, not a great deal of either. Then there was a lot of club talk through a microphone, most of which I couldn't understand. Then the President got up and said "There are 27 Rotarian sisters here, 39 from the United States and 4 from overseas. We welcome you all", and we all stood in the vast expanse of a room and gaped at each other and sat down. Then a

member who became a partner in a local firm of stock-brokers in 1934 spoke for half-an-hour on the prospects of the stock market in 1955 and how to make money.

The Orffler Quartet, at San Francisco State College, played Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms, and played magnificently. I've never heard them play badly, but they have deepened, mellowed, and acquired authority with the years. And years they are; when I used to talk with them Jack O'Brien told me they are now in their 20th continuous year of playing together. It was in 1930, we thought, when we had all last met. They now are on the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley, tour the United States each year, and go to England (or rather Scotland, for the Edinburgh Festival) in the summer.

(To be continued)

## Travels with a Land Dayak (V)

By the time we had finished a good breakfast of boiled eggs, rice and curried beef stew, the sun was well up and the village shimmering in the heat, and every family had taken the opportunity of spreading out mats to dry on reed mats on the bamboo verandah. The mats are a constant nuisance when pack is drying and ingenious precautions are taken to keep them away. The entrances to the verandah are sealed off as best as may be with light fencing and a long bamboo stick is suspended at the points of balance so that it can swing freely to cover the whole area of drying pack. This stick is watched by the tiniest children in the household and their shrill cries and the squawk of offended birds goes on the day long.

"Of course," said the Tua Kampong, "why had I emerged from the room to take a speculation staff at the best and weigh up the chances of my wanting to go on immediately or wait for the end of the evening. "Of course, the old men and women do this light work as well as the children. Look at that old woman there. She must be eighty and she can hardly see, but she tries to take a turn at keeping the chickens away from the pack. Indeed it would go hard with her family if she didn't, for with one son in the constabulary, her other son and her daughter-in-law busy to work hard on the farm and there are no children yet big enough to help about the house."

The old lady demonstrated her watchfulness by aiming a vicious swipe at a strutting rooster. The edge missed its mark but it made the pack grunts jump and Chanticleer hopped nimbly away to a safer perch.

The Tua Kampong chuckled. "That reminds me", he said. "Did I ever tell you the story of the pack grain the size of a coconut?"

I pondered. The sun was hot and I was feeling a bit drowsy now after the previous night's party. The next village was only about a couple of hours walk away mostly through hot, stuffy secondary jungle. Two of the boys who were going to carry our luggage were fast asleep in the house and no one seemed very anxious to go on just yet.

"No" I replied, "what was that story?"

The Tua Kampong seemed to breathe a sigh of relief and started his tale.

"Long ago, so many generations ago that even I cannot remember exactly, life was much easier. A Golden Age. In those days the pack grains were as large as young coconuts and a man could make a meal from a single grain. There was plenty of fertile land for everyone and everything produced profusely. But one day, an old blind woman, just like that old lady over there, was sitting guarding her pack from the chickens. She could not see the chickens, of course, but her sense of hearing was acute and she rarely

missed. But the children loved, as children do, to torment her by making noises like chickens picking at the grain and then laughing at the poor old woman's efforts to drive away the imaginary birds. None lived this game better than the blind woman's own mischievous grandchildren."

A few little girls and boys were skipping and chasing along the verandah at that very moment and I could well picture the scene that the Tua Kampong was describing. Even today, the children take the greatest pleasure with their grandparents who in their turn extravagantly indulge the children.

"The old blind woman" the Tua Kampong went on, "grew more and more annoyed at this innocent playing and suddenly, when she heard one of the relatives near at hand she took a bamboo stick and lashed out at the sound with all her strength. The stick missed down but instead of hitting the child or a chicken it struck the pack grain and split them into a thousand fragments. Each piece was as small as a pea grain today, and never since that time has the pack grown to its old size."

The old man sighed and his rheumy old eyes glowed in the recollection of times long gone. His sigh was echoed by a powerful声 from inside the house where our party was catching up on its rest.

"Well?" "What do you think, Tua Kampong?" I asked. "Shall we push on or wait for the evening party?"

"As you wish, Sir," he answered. "But if I were you I'd try and take a little sleep. There won't be much rest in the next village tonight. You can beat the stages heading already, and you will be interested in the ceremony to be held there. It is called a Nishong and even the wealthiest villages can only afford such a ceremony about once in ten years."

"One word, Tua Kampong. Three o'clock then. And we'll take our evening meal when we get there. How about the porters?"

"Don't you worry about that!" chuckled the old man every young man and girl in the village will be going over there to-night and they'll be as happy as can be to carry a few things for you."

"Splendid." I yawned and picking my way into the cool room where I fell into a pleasant doze, into which intruded from time to time the faint sounds of the ponge calling us to the celebration in the next village.

(To be continued)

## Welfare Organisations in Sarawak (VI)

### THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY, SARAWAK BRANCH

The Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society, was inaugurated in December 1947. Under the guidance of its President, Mrs. Kennedy, who can truly be described as the pioneer of all Red Cross work in Sarawak, activities were started with the formation of a Ladies' Work Party meeting weekly, first in the Square Tower at Pangkorai Barr and later at the Union Club to make bandages for the Leper Settlement and clothing for the Old Men's Home.

1949 saw the start of training in first aid and nursing, the teaching of handicrafts in the Hospital wards, weekly visits to the Leper Settlement, a Blood Transfusion and an Ambulance Service. Another highlight of 1949 was the formation of a Red Cross Associate Group amongst the patients of the Leper Settlement themselves. The Members of this Group organised a working party to turn what was waste ground into a small park and badminton court for the benefit of the other patients. A recreation room was started where papers, magazines and jigsaw puzzles were kept and loaned. The Branch presented the Associate Group with a

wireless set and an extension loud-speaker was put up so that patients in the Hospital there could listen as well. The Members of the Group helped in other ways such as painting the Hospital and organising concert parties. Branch Members visited the Settlement each week and taught sewing and embroidery. They also did shopping for patients and gifts of fruits and extra milk were taken to the very sick. One of the aims of Red Cross Members at this time, was to make the patients of the Settlement realise that they were not forgotten people and that the outside world was interested in their well-being and they also hoped to encourage them to take an interest in their own future.

In 1949, too, Red Cross work was started outside Kuching and Divisions were formed at Betong, Sungei-gang and Miri. The Executive Committee continued to deal with the Kuching area as well as the Colony as a whole but later a separate Kuching Division was started and a Sarawak Division came into being. A Division has its own Committee under the Chairmanship of the Divisional President and looks after the day-to-day affairs of its area while the Branch Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of the Branch President deals with the policy and affairs of the whole Colony.

In some of the Outstation Divisions Members assisted at the clinics and ran centres for the distribution of milk to mothers and small children while in Miri and Lubok an ambulance service was started. Red Cross helped in the organisation of general welfare relief work and in the course of their visits to outlying villages Members also endeavoured to teach some form of hygiene.

A Women's Department of Members trained in First Aid was formed in 1950 followed very shortly by a similar Department for men to do duty at all public functions where they were required and to run first aid posts in outlying districts of Kuching.

Although occupational diversion was being carried out in the Hospital wards in 1949 it was not until later that this extended to the handicapped in their own houses. These people were taught tapery, knitting, dressmaking and typewriting and soon were thus able to earn something at home. This gave them an interest in life and made them feel they were of use to their families and not just a responsibility. One badly paralysed boy made a tapery bag of such fine quality-workmanship that it was sent to England for exhibition and later presented to the Commandant in Chief of the Red Cross, the Princess Royal.

Betong was the first Division to start Junior Red Cross activities and this was soon followed by the formation of two Junior Links in the Kuching area. The programme for the Links was guided by the three principles of the Junior Red Cross, namely, the promotion of health, the mitigation of suffering and international understanding and friendship. Juniors were taught hygiene and simple first aid and nursing. They made and distributed gifts for sick children in Hospital and other institutions and they helped with the general fund-raising work of the Red Cross. All these Junior Link activities continue today.

As the work of the Red Cross expanded it was decided that a Headquarters building was necessary, so funds were raised in 1952 and the Countess of Limerick, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Red Cross in London, laid the foundation stone on her visit to the Branch in March, 1953. The building was completed in November of that year and was opened by H.E. the Governor. Since that time the Headquarters building has been the focal point of the Red Cross activities and is in daily use.

Naturally, as time has gone on to have the activities of the Red Cross in Sarawak altered. As medical and social services have developed the Red Cross has withdrawn from certain aspects of work and expanded in others. The aim of the Red Cross is to do what is needed until the official services are ready to take over or the need arises to exist, acting as an auxiliary

working, not instead of, but side by side with, the official services trying to relieve the professional workers through the help of its Members all giving voluntarily of their time to aid the sick and suffering.

Perhaps the best way to give a picture of the present day work of the Branch is to describe briefly a typical "Red Cross week" as seen from the Headquarters in Kuching.

The Headquarters building is open daily and during the week there is a constant stream of visitors. Three-wheel chairs are out on loan and it may be that one of these needs adjusting. Powdered milk and vitamin tablets are given out to a number of persons recommended for this help. A large stock of new and second hand clothing is always kept in readiness for emergencies whether it be for an individual or family in distress or a whole community who have lost their possessions through fire or other disaster. Such clothing is distributed on a Colony-wide basis and the other Divisions are able to build up their own stocks. Financial help is also given for those whose needs cannot be met from official sources. A patient may arrive from a distant dispensary for out-patient treatment at the Clinic and has nowhere to stay in Kuching. The opening of the Red Cross Hostel will meet this need but meanwhile if no home can be found a Red Cross Member finds a space in her own home. Sometimes a telegram arrives from an institution asking the Red Cross to meet and help an aged or infirm person travelling from one part of the Colony to another. She is past, green load, drink and shelter and soon safely on her way. A gift of toys occasionally arrives from Friends in England for the children in the Lager Settlement or a pile of magazines for Hospital patients. Red Cross Members from other Divisions come to visit Headquarters which is for them as well as for the people of Kuching. There are but a few instances and many more could be described. A full time ambulance driver is on duty and the ambulance is kept ready for emergencies and is also in constant use.

There are now over 100 Junior Members and four Junior Links in Sarawak, and Mondays and Wednesdays are their meeting times. Besides the activities described previously to this account they are busy preparing albums of life in Sarawak to send to Juniors in other parts of the world. In return they recently received two albums from Members of the American Junior Red Cross. One Junior Member wrote an account of the visit of her Link to the Salvation Army Home with gifts for the children which is published in the current edition of the Commonwealth-wide Junior Journal.

On Tuesdays the ambulance goes to Serian with a Red Cross Officer in charge who, as well as being trained in nursing and midwifery, has a unique knowledge of this country and its people. Beside bringing in for treatment patients who might otherwise be reluctant to come she is able to do much welfare work and thinks nothing of long trips on land or by river to remote hamlets. This work, as all other work of every Red Cross Member, is done voluntarily.

Fund-raising is a vital part of the work of any voluntary organization if it is to be able to meet its commitments. The Wednesday Morning Work Party makes goods for the annual bazaar as well as clothes for emergency and welfare purposes. Many Members do work in their own homes, and the fund-raising activities of the Division need a great deal of organization. In addition to bazaar funds are raised through Members' subscriptions, dances, raffle sales and rallies. A proportion of Branch funds is derived through the Social Welfare Council, from a part share in the Combined Turf Club Sweepstakes.

Thursday is a busy day for the Red Cross. A class for handicapped children is held at Headquarters in the morning with a physiotherapist giving treatment and Associate Members teaching handcrafts. The ambulance collects these children from Hospital or from their own homes. Meanwhile at the Hospital

Associate Members teach handcrafts to T.B. and other long-term patients and in the afternoon there is a therapy class for the mental patients who produce some remarkably good, and sometimes original, work.

The Detachment Members, now over 40 strong, meet on Thursday evenings for a First Aid Lecture and the Women's Detachment have additional meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays for practical first aid demonstrations. None of these Members can become qualified until they have passed a first aid examination, and the girls are also taught nursing. Besides attending public functions—functions ranging from horse races to the Teboising Ceremony held at the Malay Mosque, or give first aid when necessary—the Members also help with welfare work. One crippled boy has his only outing of the week when a crew of Men's Detachment Members take him to listen to the Band on Sundays or whenever else he wishes to go. Women Members take a special interest in a group of blind children. The Detachments run two First Aid Posts in the hospital and Men's Detachment Members also run a library at the Hospital. The Men's Detachment give much help as voluntary messengers and in distributing magazines and books to home-bound invalids. Senior Detachment officers also give assistance to other organizations by teaching first aid to the Police, Scouts and Junior Members of the Red Cross.

Through there is now no longer the same need for the Red Cross to play such an active part in the life of the Upper Settlement, Members continue to pay a visit there every other Friday. Shopping for patients is done and magazines and special comforts are distributed at the Settlement Hospital. The Associate Group within the Settlement continues. Junior Red Cross Members in Britain take a particular interest in the children at the Settlement and gifts of many kinds including a gramophone and a variety arrive at Headquarters at frequent intervals.

The Red Cross has a special duty to help in general first aid training and at the present time more than 50 of the Police are completing a course in first aid which a busy medical practitioner is sparing time to conduct for the Red Cross assisted by Malay Members of the Detachments. In this connection one very important Red Cross service must be mentioned because it is the Police who set such an excellent example—the provision of blood donors without whom the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service would be impossible. It is hoped that many more members of the general public will follow their example in contributing to this vital need.

Red Cross work does not stop at the weekends as on Saturday evenings Associate Members distribute magazines and books at the Hospital as well as make up parcels of magazines for despatch to nine pensioner hospitals, clinics and institutions. The ambulance and Detachment Members are frequently required to attend sporting events on Saturday afternoons, and from time to time at the weekends there is a special outing for the handicapped children or children from the Salvation Army Home.

This account cannot be closed without mention of Red Cross work being carried out in other Divisions besides Kuching. There is an encouraging increase in activity in Miri and Letong where the main activities are the staffing of the clinic built by the people of Riau Road for the Red Cross, the extension of the already well established Blood Transfusion Service, the formation of a Men's Detachment and the establishment of a Ladies' Group to carry out teaching in handcrafts at the Hospital, general welfare work and fund-raising activities. The Red Cross ambulance group in Miri continues to do valiant service over very rough roads but will soon be reaching the end of its life. Financial help has been given from the Miri Letong Division to those who lost their homes recently in a major longhouse fire.

Sungegan Red Cross have a Ladies' Work Party who visit the Hospital to "make and mend" and teach handcrafts to patients. They have also given financial help at a recent longhouse fire in their Division.

Members of the Red Cross in Ilitong visit the Dispensary weekly to distribute milk to mothers with small children. The babies are weighed and seen by the doctor if they are not thriving. There are Red Cross work parties at Sarawak and Kubong and it is hoped that the Red Cross can extend its welfare work among the communities in these two places.

There is no end to the work of the Red Cross both in the field of training and so long as there are needy and suffering people. This work depends, however, entirely on the voluntary efforts of members of all sections of the community in Sarawak. The Red Cross in Sarawak is not alone in this task. The Branch is one of 42 Overseas Branches of the British Red Cross Society closely linked with British Red Cross Headquarters in London. The British Red Cross Society in its turn is one of 11 national societies bound together in the International Red Cross which has over 100 million members from all corners of the world. The Red Cross is not just a charitable organization on a national basis—it is part of a great nation, acting as the channel through which the public can give their help to those less fortunate than themselves, regardless of race or creed.

## Crops Without Soil

(Note: The following article by J. W. E. W. Shattoe Douglas describes the new and simplified methods of soilless culture successfully carried out in Bengal. The writer believes that they have valuable possibilities for similar application in many colonies. His book, Hydroponics, the Bengal System, gives the technique in full detail and further advice can be obtained from the Information Centre, Mycological Research Station, P.O. Box 31, Rangoon.)

The necessity for developing the great potential resources of our overseas territories is just as urgent as ever. Vast regions of the colonies still lie neglected and barren, without farm or town to break the monotony of the undeveloped landscape. Hidden within the forests and the swamps, the deserts and the hills of these areas are great riches, which up to the present have remained unavailable to man on account of what were supposed to be practically insuperable obstacles. In particular, the absence of fertile soil in many of the colonies has presented a bottleneck, since the first requirement of any community is the assurance of a regular supply of food. During the past decade several efforts have been made to develop agricultural production in backward lands. These have met with very varying degrees of success, the majority unfortunately resulting in complete failure. In a few cases, however, schemes based on careful preliminary surveys and carried through with energy and foresight have fully justified initial hopes, and are today playing an important part in improving living conditions over large areas of several countries of the Commonwealth. One of the most outstanding examples of successful development work has been the introduction and extension of the Bengal system of soilless cultivation throughout India and neighbouring States.

The growing of crops without soil has now become an established feature of Indian horticulture, and a rapidly increasing importance in the agricultural economy of the Republic. Generally known as hydroponics—a word derived from Greek and meaning "water working," as opposed to geoponics or agriculture, "care of the earth"—soilless growth of plants has given excellent results not only in uncultivated and congested places, but also in desert and barren localities, where conventional methods of soil culture are quite impracticable. In fact, both farmers and big plantation owners, as well as town residents and gardeners, have found hydroponics to be of great value for raising crops

of vegetables and fruits. Good seedlings of tobacco, tea, coffee, and cichlana, in addition to sugar-cane sets, and chira cuttings and stocks, have been produced.

In hydroponics, plants are grown without soil by feeding them on chemical solutions. Several advantages over soil cultivation exist. Higher yields, less labour, and better crops can be listed as some of the assets of the technique. Simplified methods of hydroponics, which originated from the trials commenced in Bengal in 1946, have done much to popularise soilless cultivation and to facilitate its widespread adoption. The superiority of hydroponics over normal soil culture in districts where the land is too poor to till has been demonstrated beyond doubt.

One of the biggest problems in India is that of food supply. The population is increasing at the rate of five million a year; by 1990 there will be over five hundred million persons within the frontiers of the Union. There has been no corresponding rise in agricultural production, owing to the difficulty of bringing waste land under cultivation. But if the towns and urban areas could be made self-supporting in vegetables and potatoes by hydroponic means, and the arable parts rendered productive by growing crops on them soillessly, then the available fertile soil in the country-side could be devoted to cereal growing. Hydroponic techniques offered considerable hope. But the complicated system of soilless culture used in the United States were not suitable for tropical lands. What was needed was a simple method, straightforward, easy to install, inexpensive to maintain, and practically fool-proof to operate. With such objects in view, the first experiments were undertaken at the Government of Bengal's Experimental Station at Rangampur, in the Daccah district a year after the end of the war. Funds for the work were largely provided by the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in London, since the international importance of the work was fully realised. In 1948, the initial results of the research were published; considerable success had been achieved. Today, the picture is most encouraging. Modified and adapted for variable climate conditions, the Bengal system of hydroponics has spread rapidly throughout India so that there are many thousands of hydroponics functioning all over the sub-continent. A vast number of enquiries are received every week at the information bureaux and the demonstration centres in Calcutta and Bombay from countries as far apart as South Africa and Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, Formosa and East Africa, requesting advice and literature on soilless cultivation.

The yields of crops under hydroponics have been increased by as much as four times the normal amount. Some examples are 24 lbs. of tomatoes per plant from seeds in Bengal, and 200 tons to the acre. Maize has produced 6000 lbs. of grain per acre, against the usual soil average of 2000 lbs. Other crops include rice with a yield of 800 lbs., wheat with 3000 lbs., and potatoes with 80 tons—all from areas of one acre. Growth is up to 25 per cent quicker, while close intercropping and adequate nutrition ensure space saving and greater weight. There is relative freedom from soil diseases, and no weeding to do. Flavour is first-class. By using special formulae it is possible to produce fruits with a high mineral value, such as tomatoes with an increased calcium content for babies. Analyses have shown no distinction between soilless cultured fish and vegetables, and those naturally raised.

During the last war, military hydroponics were set up at isolated places, and at desert air bases, notably Habbariyah, in Iraq and Ascension Island. The soilless gardens at Chola and Otau in Japan cover three units of five acres each, producing over ten million servings of fresh vegetables yearly, enough to supply the whole American occupation force. At Corinto and Aruba Islands off the Venezuelan coast where extensive oilfields have been developed, hydroponics supply the employees stationed there with regular stocks of greenstuff all through the season.

The principles underlying soilless cultivation have been so extensively propagated during the past several years that there will be few who have not at least a general idea of the subject. The basic aim of the grower is to secure the greatest possible control over all the factors influencing the plant's development by providing it with those conditions which will lead to the kind of product desired, usually one showing maximum growth or fruitfulness. Soil, however, can never provide more than a simplified means of crop production. Nutritional conditions are often satisfactory, and cannot at any time be accurately assessed, while erosion, waterlogging, and infertility are other drawbacks. The hydroponic operator on the other hand has complete control of his crop. The uncertainty inherent in soil farming is replaced by a much more precise method of growth utilising a nutrient solution of known composition.

Under the Bengal system of soilless cultivation the plants are grown in troughs, or beds constructed from any suitable material, such as wood, stones, bricks and mortar, or non-combustible mud plaster. They are made about a yard wide and of any convenient length. These troughs are filled with side walls eight inches in height, and filled to their depth with a coarse, inert aggregate. This growing medium is best made up of five parts of gravel, broken brick, stone chips, or weathered shales, of 14-16 grit-size grade, and two parts of sand or other rock dust. In some areas big boulders are found in abundance, these if crushed up give an aggregate of approximately the right proportions without further mixing. Water is applied to the beds by means of a system of later pipes. The walls are fitted with guttering and small drainage holes, from which any run-off may be collected and used again. The growing medium is kept constantly moist, but care has to be taken to avoid waterlogging, since that would kill the crop by preventing aeration. As a guide, it is recommended to maintain a degree of softness in the aggregate equivalent to that of a damp sponge just lightly wrung out. Under these conditions healthy plant growth proceeds without any check.

To nourish crops in a soilless culture unit, nutrient chemicals containing the elements essential to plant growth are periodically applied to the growing medium in the troughs. The general framework within which a formula should be built up is as follows:

Element	p.p.m.
Nitrogen	100-150
Potassium	100-200
Phosphates	80-150
Magnesium	20-100
Calcium	500-5000
Iron	2-50
Manganese	0.5-5
Boron	0.5-5
Copper	0.5
Zinc	1.0

In practical work, there is a choice of three methods of application, all of which have given good results in Bengal. The first way is by means of a dry fertilizer grade mixture of salts. The second manner calls for irrigation of the beds with a nutrient solution of fertilizers and water, while the third system is the utilization of synthetic resins and a solution of potassium nitrate and water at intervals. All are satisfactory, but in most cases local considerations of cost and availability govern the choice. The actual selection of chemicals in the mixture for hydroponics is immaterial provided all the essential elements are present, but suitable adjustments are made for different types of water, change of season and varying aggregate. For example, should the water contain already calcium and magnesium as dissolved salts, the quantity of these fertilizers in the formula can be cut down to save expense. The pH of the nutrient solution adhering to the aggregate particles in the beds is adjusted to a value of 5.0 to 6.5, to nearly all crops.

A mixture of fertilizer grade salts that has given excellent results in Bengal has been reproduced here:

Quantity of Soda . . . . . 14 cwt.

OR	
Sulphate of ammonia	12 -
Superphosphate	8 -
Calcium sulphate	3 -
Potassium sulphate or muriate	4 -
Magnesium sulphate	1 -
Boron sulphate	1/2 drwt.

The minor elements, boron, manganese, zinc, and copper, will usually be present as impurities in the salts of the main mixture. This formula should be well mixed, and stored in dry containers. Any quantity can be prepared at one time, provided the proportions are kept constant.

Application is at the rate of 1½ or 2 cwt. of the mixture per 1 acreyd. of trough surface space weekly or every ten days as required. If applied dry by spreading evenly between plant rows, the salts must be well wetted immediately with a light spray from a spray or hose. Where it is desired to add the chemicals to the water supply, the rate is about 30 cwt. of the formula to 100 gallons of water.

Synthetic resins, such as urelites, are mixed in with the growing medium in the beds at the start of the season. An example of the quantities used is:

Urelite	
Cu ++	37 cwt.
Mg ++	18 -
H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> -	3 -
SO <sub>4</sub> =	2 -
H <sub>2</sub> BO <sub>3</sub> -	1 -
Fe ++	1 drwt.
Mn + +	1 -

The above are sufficient to last 1 sq. ft. of trough space for six months. A solution of 20 cwt. of potassium nitrate in 100 gallons of water is given from time to time three times weekly.

The maintenance of a hydroponics of rice area in the opened up the Bengal system entails an expenditure of approximately £2.10s. a month, excluding extra labour for picking and harvesting. Harvesting charges vary from a few pence to 1½d. a sq. ft. according to the materials used. Large profits have been made by commercial growers in India on the average three amounts to £1,200 per acre yearly from cotton units.

One of the problems in hot and dry areas is that of water. Soilless methods conserve water, since instead of dissipating it over large open spaces as is done in conventional agriculture, it is piped into beds where little is lost in evaporation. Potable salt which automatically chill fresh water from brine for use in vegetable cultivation in desert or barren parts have also been evolved. A contraption like a dome of glass or metal acts as a condenser. Under this, the salt water is run into a series of trays surrounding a central column. The heat sun shining in the daytime evaporates the water as vapour, leaving the salt in the trays. At night the rapid cooling of the dome turns the trapped vapour back into water, which then runs down the inside of the cover, and out onto the beds through exit pipes. The trays are cleaned and refilled periodically. By the use of this simple device, a constant supply of fresh water can be secured in the most unpromising sites, where a continental type of climate exists.

As far as seed sowing and general cultivation practices are concerned, hydroponic technique follows conventional lines, except that there is, of course, no ploughing or weeding. The advantages of soilless beds for raising seedlings, and for quick production of high-quality crops by themselves merits, are obvious. Permanent troughs easily sterilized by a rapid washing with a formaldehyde solution, save much labour and expense.

Hydroponics is a new technique. Only recently has it become sufficiently simplified to be of practical value in colonial development work, and its immense possibilities are not yet fully appreciated. The striking success achieved in India with soilless culture points the way to similar bounds in the British African territories and other colonies. The advantages of being able to employ a technique of crop production completely divorced from the soil in barren or sterile areas are manifold, and there is no doubt that hydroponics conducted according to the simple and economical Bengal methods will play a big part in future development activities.

(By Courtesy of the "Colonial Development")

## The Romance of the Frontier.

From my earliest days I have always been fascinated by the idea of international frontiers. To me, a frontier is a road with a sort of aura of romance and mystery. It is of course well known that many exciting stories both true and fictional have shaped their most dramatic moments on and around frontiers, and perhaps it was the early reading of some such stories which instilled in me this very special feeling of excitement about the "border".

I crossed my first frontier when I was eight months old. There is nothing at all special about this, and quite a number of people must have since achieved this fact when only a few hours—or even minutes old. The particular frontier I crossed then was that between Switzerland and Germany, but I must confess I can retain no impressions of it. Yet I feel that this early frontier crossing must have made some lasting impression, and perhaps have been the cause of the fascination which I now always feel.

With the advance of civilization and the increase and complexity of controls, frontier crossing has become rather a mundane stereotyped business; but I still like to think of the "border" as a very special, indeed almost sacred piece of country, the very antithesis of a bureaucratic barrier in a stuffy passport office.

I can remember years ago arriving at the frontier between Latvia and Estonia. There wasn't very much to mark it, just a horizontal pole-type gate in the traditional continental level crossing style, coloured with Latvian national colours on one side of it and the Estonian on the other. A tumbled down raised shack stood to one side of the gate, quite empty and looking as if it hadn't been used for years. We were in a great hurry to get on with our journey and delighted though it was to see such a colourful barrier before us, we were in a quandary as to what to do about it. I could have removed the windowsills of my car and driven, without difficulty, underneath the pole for the car was an MG, of sporting type and very low slung—a shade too low, perhaps for comfortable motoring on the roads of the Baltic countries in those days. Alternatively, I had a most efficient hook saw with which I could have made short work of the pole and chain securing the barrier. But on reflection we realized that there were disadvantages in adopting either of these rather dramatic methods of crossing the border. The long arm of bureaucracy, we felt, would want to know sooner or later—and particularly when we wanted to leave Estonia, how we had managed to enter without acquiring the appropriate entry stamp in our passport, and although my spare parts assembly had passed the every conceivable form of predicament—and indeed some which we sincerely trusted would pass incomprehensible—it did not include any apparatus for the tearing of entry stamps. No, we had to think of something else. We duly crossed the frontier—that of course was inevitable—but on foot, leaving our car

patiently waiting by the gaily coloured barrier in Larvia; and on the Russian side we found a helpful native who, although couched in somewhat unusual language, was sufficiently intelligent to convey to us the information that the frontier at this point, was only open on Tuesdays and Fridays. As it was then a Wednesday it looked as if we were in for a long wait unless we could find some other way across.

We passed over our maps and then drove along a rated track parallel with the frontier and but a few feet from it, until we came to a habitation. Here we introduced our plight to the farmer by the staffed use of a most excellent book—still, I believe, in publication—called Leidell's "25 Languages of Europe". The farmer understood perfectly, and sending for some refreshments with which to regale our flagging spirits produced an enormous map on the prodigious scale of something like four inches to the mile. It was a frontier-layer's dream chart, and I gathered that all the barriers who had nearly had one, as it was obviously aimed to show exactly where the frontier ran, and depicted with accuracy every building, every field, and practically every tree. The frontier could thus be presented in such fine lines that we could easily have indulged in that fascinating dodge of standing with one's left foot in one country and one's right in another. We had on time then for such romantic funerals, but loaded with home-brewed beer provided by this amiable farmer and with our car literally garnished with flowers gathered by his daughter, we departed, as in triumph, for an alternative frontier station, which we reached only just in time before it closed for the rest of the day!

A simple enough adventure but possessing a genuine spice of the international.

Talking of having one's left foot in one country and one's right in another reminds me of a very fascinating holiday which my wife and I spent just before the war in Poland. Anticipated, it must confess, by a tourist agent's brochure, we had numbered our way for nearly 36 hours across Belgium, Germany and upper Silesia, and then changing to a local train with very bad seats at Czestochowa, down south to the High Tatra and the Czechoslovakian border. It was wild, exciting country, with dark pine woods, bare rocky crags, steep rushing torrents, and places with expressively Gothic names like Szczawnica, Czochowska and Koscielisko. From the beginning the line of the frontier caught us, and one of our first walks was to find out where it lay. It was not a difficult expedition and the frontier itself was most clearly defined by a series of small stone mass blocks marching in single file like well-trained soldiers along a high ridge. Each block carried on one side the inscription "P 1929", and on the opposite side "CS 1929". No much doubt about that frontier—although one speculated about the situation between 1920 and 1923. At all events here it was only too easy to stand with one foot in Poland and the other in Czechoslovakia—and to be photographed doing it!

Perhaps the most exciting way of crossing a frontier is on ski. The first time I did this was after a five-hour rapid climb to a height not far short of 11,000 feet. The party consisted of my wife and myself, an attractive American art student, a Swiss railway conductor and a Swiss guide from the almost legendary family of Peppers. The climb was arduous but in no sense hazardous, the rope only being there as a precaution in the very unlikely eventuality of one or other of us falling into an unexpected crevasse. The Thoreld Pass which we were making had marked the Indian-Swiss frontier and was completely unguarded and unmarked where we crossed it, but there was little doubt about its locality because from thence the ground fell steeply to the most magnificent view imaginable of all the Italian Alps. No formalities, no rubber stamps, no "Have you anything to declare?" just

simply the fresh crisp air of high mountains and the silence of our skis in the sparkling snow.

Another frontier I remember well in connection with skiing, was that between Germany and Austria in the area of the Zug Spitz. There were two ways of crossing this frontier for winter-sporting purposes: on skis and—possibly enough under skin—and it was this latter which was the usual way. The explanation is quite simple—the standard route from Kitzbuhel on the Austrian side is by a cable railway of vertiginous design which hoists men like a gilded fish in the space of a few minutes, from a height of 3,000 ft. to over 9,000 ft. The top cable station is perched most giddily upon a very steep rock face, but any tendency to agoraphobia is relieved by the fact that one is immediately pulled into a long and dark tunnel illuminated by lights and sparkling in places with miniature stalactitic growths. This is the underworld part of the journey, for to get to Germany from Austria by this route, there is nothing for it but to walk along this tunnel carrying one's skis upon one's shoulder. At intervals along the tunnel—it is about a kilometer in length and for this level—one's attention is arrested by caustic notices: "Unter Wandsche! Die Ladt ist dauer! Langsam fahren." The air is indeed thin, and only the ears would venture to buzz, and they not for long.

The Austrian control post is in the middle of this tunnel, and it is one of the more difficult feats to comply with passport formalities and other attendant inconsistencies while clattered up with skis and stick, not only of one's own, but also of one's immediate neighbour, all intent on passing on to the eternal snows. Once out of the tunnel and into Germany, the contrast is dazzling. In one short bound one is plucked from the stygian gloom of the mountain interior to a blinding lucidity—on sun, snow and sky. Small wonder that one's skiing technique seemed somewhat adrift at the start!

The alternative route by the "open" frontier was a matter of 26 kilometers of fairly hard riding. I only did it once, returning from Germany into Austria, and the weather was so indifferent during the journey that I began to wonder if we would do it at all. The previous day had been impossible on account of thunderstorms, and this day, after a fine start, soon darkened with grey storm clouds and scurrying snowfalls. But there was no doubt about the frontier, although the weather was at its worst when we reached it. The driving snow and dark pull of the clouds had reduced visibility to only a few yards, but the Germans, with Teutonic thoroughness had put up an unmistakable notice, "Achtung! Die Grenze!" and these at the foot of the notice was a heavy steel wire fence not more than a foot or two in height tracing out the magical line. If I had not noticed it, I suppose I should have run into it and fallen out of Germany into Austria—a somewhat undignified method of entering a country. But what I did was almost as undignified: leaving one foot and ski in Germany pointing more or less in the direction of Berlin, I gingerly placed the other in Austria pointing more or less in the direction of Vienna—and that commenced to move off in the direction of both capitals at once.... I was grateful the Germans had only placed a little wire fence and not a Siegfried line at that point!

Yes, there is a romantic glamour about frontiers, a glamour born, doubtless, of history itself. For how often has not a frontier marked the limit of hope and aspiration, the boundary of effort and determination, and indeed the very goal of liberty and new life?

## Extracts from a Schoolgirl's Flight Diary

JULY 29th.

This was the great longed-for day! Jo and I each had a new suitcase, hers was blue and mine was brown—with our initials painted on them in white, and the B.O.A.C. rippling silver bags. (We should not have had these as we did not travel first class, but B.O.A.C. made a mistake in our favour!)

Again Chris took us back up to London by the 6.15 train from Oxford. We took a taxi to the Air Terminal, where our luggage was weighed, and there we met Marion Cooke, who was fifteen and was also going to Rangoon. At about ten minutes to eight our coach arrived, and we all climbed in. The journey was long—about an hour—but we were too excited to be bored. When we arrived, we went through the Customs, and after some waiting about, we were taken by coach to the aeroplane.

It was then about a quarter past nine, and we climbed in and went to our seats. Jo had number 24 and I had number 25, a window seat. At about ten o'clock we were served with supper, a very delicious meal consisting of soup, fish and salad, followed by chocolate and cream pudding and a roll with bacon and Cheddar cheese. We then settled down to go to sleep, but heard in our oxygenancy that the plane was due to land at Frankfurt at about 11.30. At 11.30 we all got out of the plane and went to a place where refreshments were served, but neither of us wanted any, as we practically needed sandwiches to keep our eyes open. There were some articles for sale, but these did not interest us much. At 12.30 we went back to the plane, and I fell asleep.

At about three o'clock in the morning we were due to arrive at Rome, so our sleep was not long.

JULY 30th.

Although we were pretty tired, we found Rome far more appealing than Frankfurt. Jo bought a little hand-carved wooden Bambi, and also a little pack of postcard cards marked up a buying for my birthday. This was very fascinating. About an hour later we returned to the plane and found to our relief that the next stop, Cairo, was not till 11.30 or thereabouts. Thus we managed to grab some sleep.

Breakfast the next morning consisted of stewed fruit, a glass of orange, marmalade, bacon and tomatoes, and a roll, with bacon and marmalade—very delicious. Cairo was extremely hot, and stepping out of the air-conditioned plane into the burning heat was like stepping into an oven. We went to the refreshment bar and had glasses of lemonade. There was a large number of friendly Egyptian waiters, wearing fez (?) The place was noisy, as we had a long and boring wait.

The Cairo-Bombay trip was very unpleasant at first, as there was a large number of air-pockets and many people were sick, but I was lucky and was not sick though I did not feel too good. Neither of us had any lunch, though apparently there was chicken.

There was also very hot, but the restaurant was not quite as hot as Cairo's, probably because it was already about six o'clock. We drank lemonade in the sun and then went out into the garden, sat on the verandah and talked. At about ten o'clock we reached Bahrain, where I had some stewed fruit. After this snack we all went into the garden. It was practically dark, being illuminated only by the light from the windows, and the outlines of the strange trees and shrubs, with long, drooping leaves, were clear against the dark blue sky. We stayed at Bahrain for two hours, and eventually embarked on the plane again, and tried to sleep.

JULY 31st.

At a quarter to five, we arrived at Karachi, where we stayed for two hours. There was a fascinating little shop there, which sold numerous small articles made of

real ivory. I bought myself an ivy leaf paper knife for two shillings and we also bought an elephant branch for Josephine. We then went outside and sat on the lawn. When we went outside it was almost dark, but grew frost extremely quickly here, and the whole place was flooded with a pale half-light in about three minutes. We were then invited to go and see the "jellyfish" man. (It was pronounced that way, but I do not know how to spell it.) He was a conjurer, a real Eastern magician, with a coffee-coloured skin, and a white cap and a scaly grey beard. Some of his tricks were very clever, and at the end he took a collection. After that the coach took us back to the aeroplane.

At ten o'clock the next morning we arrived at Bombay, but we were both very tired. We showed our immigration certificates and our passports were taken in. Bombay was a very boring place, and I was glad to return to the plane. On the way to Colombo we had lunch. I was not hungry and had soup only.

Colombo was a night stop, so when we disembarked, we took all our luggage with us. After going through the Customs (which seemed always very lenient, as they never asked us if we had anything to declare) the B.O.A.C. coach took us to the Mount Lavinia Hotel, where we were to stay. When we arrived, we found that we should have asked for our first night room at the Customs, and that they were still at the Airport, as a coach had to be sent to fetch them. We were given the key to our double room, No. 106. It had a fan and two large beds, also a bathroom with a shower. We unpacked and changed into clean dresses. At 4.30 we were told to go downstairs, and we were taken to the Colombo Botanical Zoo by coach. It was most interesting, but I think I should have enjoyed it more if I had not been so tired. Also I kept feeling imaginary bumps from the aeroplane, from being kept in the air for so long. There was a large number of tropical birds in the zoo, which had all been caught off Colombo (as so the ranger said). There were also elephants, deer, seahorses, lions, tigers, and other animals and birds. We came back by coach at about six o'clock. I then had a very refreshing bath, and at seven o'clock we went down to supper. We were not allowed to go into the big dining-room, but had to stay in the "Kidder" room. For supper we had chicken (rather tough) with peas and potatoes, followed by very cold, sweet ice-cream. After supper Jo, Marion, Susan Field and I explored the hotel, and then went out into the garden. It was dark, but we could see our way in the light from the hotel windows. We stood on a small stone balcony which overlooked the sea. It is very rough round Colombo, and there were many white horses. The keeper was cool and refreshing, and smell of the sea. The tall, slender palm trees were silhouetted against the sky, and their long, smooth, white trunks showed up clearly in the dark. We all thought it was very romantic. We then went into the lounge, and talked, and at about 8.30 Jo and I went to bed, as we were to be woken at 4.45 the next morning. We both had a shower, which was very refreshing, and then turned off our lights and fell asleep almost immediately. It was very pleasant to sleep lying down, instead of half-sitting up.

AUGUST 1st

We were woken at 4.45 a.m., and we got up and dressed. At about half past five we were taken by coach to the airport. While we were waiting to board the plane, a very sweet little puppy came up to us, and Joann picked it up and we all stroked it. We boarded the plane at about 6.30.

The flight from Colombo to Singapore was, I thought, the most enjoyable of all. This was chiefly because everyone had had a good night's sleep, and was feeling good-tempered. We had a hilarious card game of "Doberry"—Sandra Costello, Sandra Child, Susan Field, Marion Cooke, Jo and I. Towards the end it was rather bumpy, and we had a bumpy landing.

After some waiting about and having our passports, etc., examined, we were taken by road to Malabar Hotel, which I thought was not as marvellous as I had been told. The building itself was lovely, very clean white walls and beautiful gardens, in which were growing some very strange trees which looked like ferns. Our room was No. 34, a double room. About five Shillings were in there, putting things to rights. We put our cases there and then replaced the hotel for a short time. Then we went down to the lounge and Jo had a drink of orange. The Malay waiter tried to persuade me that 50 cents was equal to two shillings—that is, the price of the orange—so I refused to pay. My money was changed (the 50) and I had 70 cents (Perseverance's reward). We sat there for ages, very bored, and when the ground hostess asked for our tickets and I went to tell her to fetch them, the door was locked and there was no key. Much waiting about ensued, but I managed to enter at last. Then Jo, the ground hostess, Valerie Smith and I had some drinks, which we did not have to pay for. At half-past seven we went in to supper. Mr. and Mrs. Magnus arrived and talked to us. They were very nice people. For supper we had brown kidney soup, champignons bordelais (i.e. mushrooms au fond) and pineapple. Jo had cheese instead of fruit. After supper we went up to bed.

#### August 2nd

This was great long-ago day No. 2! We were woken up at about five o'clock, and when we arrived at the airport there was a lot of waiting and inspections and fun. They even asked us how much we weighed (the Malayan planes, presumably). At length we embarked on the plane. The front was far higher than the back when it was on the ground, and as that it was taking off and I sat under a link in the roof. However, this stopped once we were in the air. The Malayan Airways planes were much smaller than BOAC's, without so many compartments. For breakfast I had scrambled eggs, bacon and eggs (which I thought was bacon), and was disappointed to find it was not. The plane was not greatly so well air-conditioned as BOAC's planes, and was almost stuffy...

[The Diary ends here. Rising accident statistics prevented this writer from completing her work before the happy landing!]—Eds.]

#### Bond Safety

[The following are the Winning Entries submitted by students of Kuching schools for the Schools' Road Safety Competition held in July this year.—Eds.]

##### ROAD SAFETY

In Kuching traffic is light, but still there are accidents of all sorts all the time. Accidents may be caused by cars, trucks, buses, motor cycles and bicycles. The causes of accidents are that the people do not obey the rules issued by the Government and do not think of safety first. If we want to be safe we should try to obey all the rules.

We often see pedestrians walking on the left side of the road three or four abreast. Sometimes they do not give way to cars or bicycles, and they never make use of the footpath even if there is one. When they want to cross the road they do not stop to see if there is any vehicle coming from the left or right. They are liable to cause accidents if they walk in this way.

The proper way is to walk on the right side in single file, and use the footpath whenever there is one. Before crossing we should stop, look right, left and right again.

When we use buses we should not get on or off before the buses have completely stopped, and must not cross the roads before they have gone away.

Some people get on or off the buses before stopping and cross the roads before the buses have departed. Some of these people were killed because of their carelessness and hurry.

If pedestrians obey the rules I have mentioned they will be safe.

As for cyclists, they should watch the traffic signs, obey the traffic police, ride in single file and see if the brakes are in good condition. Some cyclists ride three or four abreast and they do not obey the traffic police or watch the traffic signs. Some ride at full speed without good brakes. They may cause great injuries to themselves as well as to others in this way. Such people should be fined or punished, so that they may not do the same things any more. This also applies to motorcyclists who are notoriously careless.

Car drivers should not drive fast and should also obey the traffic police and watch the traffic signs. If they can do so there will be fewer accidents.

Section: Junior English,  
Wynona Soos,  
St. Joseph's

#### Safety First

The prevention of road accidents today is a very great problem which has remained unsolved in many countries. Hundreds of lives are lost every year in crowded highways such as those of America and Britain. Although road accidents in Sarawak are comparatively few in number yet it must be remembered that their prevention is still a problem, especially to the Government. The occurrence of an accident may be due to the negligence or the ignorance of traffic regulations on the part of the road user, but many factors have also to be taken into consideration.

In some countries the Government, to decrease road accidents, holds a Safety First campaign. This is meant chiefly for children because they are ignorant of traffic laws and of road manners. Furthermore, accidents to small children are very frequent. One may ask, "In what way can the campaign help to keep children from getting involved in road accidents?" Well, the answer is simple. Take for example, we wish to teach a group of boys the proper way of crossing a road. We can easily do so by demonstrating to them, first in the wrong way and then in the right way. The same can also be done as regards boarding a bus and the proper way of riding a bicycle.

Now let us deal with the causes and prevention of accidents. Motorists, motorcyclists and cyclists, are often involved in accidents at some time or other. In general, the main cause for speed may be said to be responsible for many accidents of such kinds. For instance, a motorist who drives at a great speed is taking an unnecessary risk and moreover, he is selfish, for by doing so, he is endangering not only his own life but the lives of others as well. To drive at great speed round a twisting road is simply to court disaster. For reasons of safety, a speed limit is therefore imposed in nearly every country. You can be sure that if this law is observed, road accidents will have a rapid decrease.

In this country, the Government is obviously playing its part in trying to prevent road accidents, by improving road conditions, marking wider roads and erecting signposts. In my personal opinion, road accidents will be much minimised if all road users will realise that to disobey a traffic law is a matter of life and death.

Section: Intermediate English  
Dawn Hoo,  
St. Joseph's

### The Local Traffic Regulations

The drivers and pedestrians in this town are bound by various traffic regulations when they are on the roads. An offence against these laws makes them liable to prosecution. All the regulations are set up for the benefit of the citizens' road safety, and the Traffic Police are responsible for enforcing them.

A motorist takes the left side of the road, and before turning at a junction gives a signal to show the direction he intends to take. Numerous cases of accidents resulted from lackness or absence of knowledge of drivers to signal either a turn or stop. Motor vehicles travelling in the Municipal Area must not exceed a maximum speed of thirty miles an hour. Motorcyclists trying to imitate Geoff Duke, increase the accident rate. To try and maintain safety on the roads, magistrates impose heavy fines on negligent drivers.

A cyclist riding without a head lamp at night will find himself either stopped by a policeman or a telephone post. Fines will also be imposed upon him if he carries a passenger on his machine. It seems that idle cyclists taking an evening ride can never be convinced of the danger of riding three or more abreast. On a narrow road (Kuching's road are especially narrow) a car coming from behind the cyclist can find very little room to pass them.

Apart from the motorists and cyclists there is also the trouble of keeping pedestrians to road-safety rules. Pedestrians must walk on the footpath (if any occurs) instead of on the road proper. They must also not cross the road at a junction. Jay-walkers cause a motorist more trouble in handling his vehicle than driving without a steering wheel. The driver has to be very alert on the sudden appearance of a pedestrian in the middle of the street. It is high time now for Kuching to adopt the system of color-crossings.

To check the conduct of visiting drivers and also to relieve the policeman's burdensome, traffic lights should be introduced in Kuching. School teachers should give constant lectures to children about the importance of road behaviour. It should be made known to a child that playing or wandering on the road on his way to school only results in a likelier prospect of his being knocked down by a car.

Section: State English  
Name: Choon Hock,  
St. Thomas

### Sarawak Association

The Sarawak Association is arranging a Cocktail party in London on September 26th. Members of the Association who expect to be in London on that date or other visitors from Sarawak are advised to get in touch with the Secretary, 2, Great Peter Street, London S.W.1.

### Public Notice

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

At intervals, and in accordance with the Government's policy concerning scholarships, announcements have been made by the Government regarding the scholarships which were available and specifying the terms and conditions under which those scholarships might be awarded.

2. It is hereby announced again, for public information, that subject to the conditions hereunder a further limited number of scholarships may be awarded during the period 1955-56 for the following courses of training:—

#### A. Post-Graduate Courses. Education

Diploma of Education.

#### B. DIPLOME COURSES

Administration

University Degree Courses.

Agriculture

Agricultural Science.

Engineering (Drainage & Irrigation).

Veterinary.

Chinese Culture

Education

Arts.

Sciences.

Mathematics.

Engineering

Architecture.

Civil.

Electrical and Broadcasting.

Electrical and Telecommunications.

Municipal.

Forestry

Law

Medical

Dentistry.

Medicine.

Museum

Natural Sciences.

Note:

In addition, consideration will be given to applications from students with exceptional and outstanding qualifications who wish to undertake courses of training other than those specified above.

#### C. Diploma and Other Similar Courses.

Accountancy

Agriculture

Agriculture (Diploma)

Agricultural Engineering.

Civil Aviation

Air Traffic Control.

Education

Commercial Instruction.

Domestic Science.

Teacher Training.

Trade and Technical Education.

Travelling Scholarships.

Specialist Teachers Courses.

Engineering

Civil.

Drainage and Irrigation.

Drainage and Sanitation.

Mechanical.

Geology

Medical

Dental Mechanics.

Dental Nursing.

Nursing.

Optical Training.

Museums

Museum Work.

Printing

Religion

Holy Religious Affairs.

Social Welfare

## CONDITIONS

(a) The above-mentioned scholarships may be granted to any suitable candidates, who should normally be persons born or educated in Sarawak, whether or not they are in Government employ. In some cases the successful applicants may be required to serve a probationary and "non-establishment" period in a Government Department before proceeding on the course of training. All awards will be subject to the candidates being accepted by the Universities or other training institutions which Government considers they should enter.

(b) It is the policy of Government to award scholarships only to suitable candidates whose higher education is genuinely handicapped by financial circumstances, and where reasonable to require the parents or guardians of successful applicants to contribute towards the cost of the scholarship. It will be appreciated that such contributions will enable the limited funds available to be utilised for a greater number of scholarships. Each applicant should therefore state in his application what, if any, contribution his parent or guardian will be prepared to make.

(c) A scholarship holder will be granted the following financial items:—

(i) He will receive a stipend and other allowances for incidental expenses which are considered by Government to be adequate for the course in the University or institution to which the scholar is admitted.

(ii) If he is an "Established" Government employee, Government will, during his absence, be responsible for his contributions to the President Fund or Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, as the case may be.

(iii) If he is a Government employee and has dependants (wife and children) to support, the dependants will normally be paid an allowance at the following rates:—

First dependent	... 30% of his total allowances.
Each subsequent dependent up to a maximum number of 3	... 10% of his total allowances.

(iv) If he is not a Government employee, the above allowance may also be payable, and in such case will be considered on its merits.

(v) Generally, "dependents" means the wife and/or children of a scholarship holder.

(vi) However, in special circumstances and on satisfactory proof being produced, a scholarship holder may be granted an allowance in respect of a person or persons partially dependent or him for a living, e.g. parents. Each case will be considered on its merits and an allowance fixed accordingly; in no case will the allowance be in excess of the rate agreed for first dependent as in (iii) above.

(vii) It is usual for successful applicants to enter into an agreement which, amongst other things, will stipulate that they will on completion of their training return to Sarawak to join the Government Service if required, or enter other employment in Sarawak approved by Government, for a specific minimum number of years.

(viii) It should be clearly understood that the holding of a Degree would not be an assured qualification for a Senior Service Post in the Government Service.

(ix) Application forms are obtainable from the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, c/o the Secretariat, Kuching, the Resident of each Division, the Director of Education and all Secondary School authorities, and

they must be correctly completed and returned to the Chairman not later than the 15th October, 1955. Applicants who are in Government employ must submit their applications through their Residents or Heads of Departments.

P. B. R. DIXON,  
Chairman,  
Scholarship Committee.

## The Museum

### Museum Week.

Following is extract from a recent Auckland newspaper:

"Dances Through the City."

While Professor S. MUSGROVE gave his opening address on arts and the drama, there sat cross-legged on a platform at the side one Basa Siu Dyak from Borneo, in a red sarong and head cloth, and one young Tongan in black school clothes. Both had native drums across their knees.

When the speaker had finished the lights went down, and a vocal drumming on the hand skins began. Then three raised figures appeared in grotto masks— from Papua, the New Hebrides and the New Ireland.

The masked ones clink about, weaved in and out, and gave a flick or two. With the drumming they made the atmosphere grow tense, so that a well-dressed ocksåts audience began to get the feel of the primitive imagination the masks bring us.

This was what Mrs. Owyn TURBOTT, of the Museum staff who arranged the exhibition, had wanted.

The Siu Dyak, who charmed the whole audience by his composure afterwards, was Benedict SANDIN; here on a Unesco fellowship from the Sarawak Museum. His Tongan companion was Louis Tava.

There was a polite supper afterwards, but the drumming went on for a long time before little knots of fascinated spectators.

The masks, mainly from Melanesia, Africa and North America, make a fine show even without the drumming, and there is an excellent catalogue on sale".

Benedict Sandin is on the Museum staff, spending a year in New Zealand Museum on a Unesco fellowship.

No doubt he'll give a fist or two on his return.  
Slyly Non-Celebration.

It is so easy to blame things on "the primitive form of shifting cultivation" practised by many Borneans. The fact is that erosion is enormous without their aid. No river can be more mud and siltful than the wholly unirrigated Durian and Petaua branches of the Rajang. No scientific effort has been made to measure the factor. We suspect, however, the native contribution to nature is vastly over-estimated.

In any case, the alternative would appear to be to turn most of the country into one enormous forest reserve. But reserve for what? Certainly experience in the last 10 years has shown that no one really wants the timber of our interior. The first claim, anyway, goes to what Mr. Banks used to refer to (hyperbolically) as "the bogique".

An older and less conscious play on this theme is to be seen on the new maps of Sarawak. Look at the Santubong peninsula, for example. That is, the land between the Santubong and Bintulu mouths of the Sarawak River. As we see, inter alia, straying Malay

economy at the moment, several sections there were of interest because they were labelled "shifting cultivation" (e.g. Telok Batang, T. Basau, T. Baryap, T. Banay). Knowing these parts in another connection before, this paid off, negatively.

Investigation showed that none of these north areas were properly explainable by "shifting cultivation"—as cultivation at all. There were four different major factors, viz.:

1. Sites long occupied by the delta fishing community during the summer when river fishing at sea is practicable and the sheltered from the monsoon—river villages lie too far from the main fishing grounds for convenience.

2. Extensive ancient gold-mining and long related habitation (about Telok Nipah); be careful of falling into the long forgotten, unmarked shafts, as at Basau.

3. Several places to which many people from Eu-ching and elsewhere went and made big camps to extract sea-salt during the acute salshortage of the Japanese occupation. (Normally this is unimportant, with imported salt so cheap).

4. Felling of areas for firewood by all three operators of the above activities.

In Borneo few things you see are so simple that you can fit in one cause. In this case, little or none of it is "shifting cultivation."

#### *Sabuk Fishermen & Chinese Agents*

In connection with number secondary, above, it is notable that in the past five years this very interesting "runner community" of Malays has been abandoned, as a result of increased motorisation and so on. Most recently Sabukmen have kindly worked with Chinese agents towing them to and from the mouth of the Rajang Delta. This year, however, the Malays are back again what they claim to be Chinese methods of payment and their own consequent indebtedness. So far as we know only one Sabukmen man has as yet agreed to this system—on previous, recent years, hundreds were engaged. The result is somewhat chaotic—for instance camps are not ready and all facilities confused. No doubt the poor Kuching housewife will feel the effect on fish prices. On the other hand, this looks like being a good year for salmonines, if early seasons are anything.

#### *The Incubator Bird and Higher Education*

There are very few kinds of bird that are found in North Borneo and not also in Sarawak. One of them is the Megapode or Incubator Bird (Megapodius). This is found on the islands off North Borneo as far down as Labuan, and also on the mainland at some points, but it is not known in Sarawak or Brunei.

These Megapodes are dark brown above, dark grey-blue below, with a grey collar and the sides of the head almost bare. About the size of a curlew, but with extra large feet. These feet are the key part of Megapodial equipment. With them the hen bird scratches up great mounds in which the eggs are laid.

This column had the chance of visiting the islands near Sandakan on a recent trip north-by courtesy of the Resident, in company with the capitals of H.M.S. Dampier, and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Reeves, in taking Sarawakians. The mound we found that day was about half the size of a basketball court, of excavated earth and vegetable debris. Next day we found two more. From one it looked as if young had hatched; the other two appeared to have been dug out.

What these strange birds do is this. The cock makes the mound to cover the hen's eggs. The heat generated causes the eggs to hatch (in about twelve) on their own—in the same principle as for the turtles (2 weeks). The young when they hatch are almost unique among birds in being perfectly independent. They immediately able to fly, run and think. They just take off and grow up into men and women megapodes without further care or higher education.

This must give us to think on how much it matters if you are taught anything or not. So much. For instance, of what people are taught to do in so-called civilised communities consists either of being taught not to do things that are natural (e.g. dressing up in uniform, dining raw). Perhaps that is putting it crudely. But look at the megapode, who grows up, untaught, to make his own mound or lay eggs correctly in it. And they survive all the depredations of crows, humans, pigs and monitor lizards (Komodo), all of whom feed their turkey size eggs exclusively. They are efficient, in the game of nature. Also they surely have pleasant lives on these lovely North Borneo islands.

This column now wants—if North Borneo will allow it—to import some young, good-looking Megapodes and put them on Sabang and about Tenggar Data. We need them no longer feel inferior to North Borneo in lacking this bird. We shall, in addition, have almost no natural insect larvae on monoculture. We already have a cassavae di adjuvant stocks to gift from Asia-Morocco via Sabang.

It should be added that although Megapodes bury their eggs in earth, humus and sand, they do not do the same to their own heads. Here is food for further compensation, no doubt. No doubt—but this column had better not make it. There is a bit of the defensive in many government officers—we had surely got OFF his back, hadn't he? Fancy facing the really BRITISHED Di Ria!

#### *A Cloud of Flies*

With interest we see in the latest Bulletin of the International Union for the Protection of Nature that Miss Brooks, on behalf of the Brooke Society, writes a somewhat alarmist report of the decrease of all birds in Sarawak. She goes a good deal further than we did in this column recently and we wonder about the evidence on which the basis such remarks as this are based.

"Their destruction has led to a vast swarm of insects throughout the region".

Has there really been any such observable increase of insects.

We ask, because in these matters it is essential, if we wish to conserve, that we should plan wisely on the basis of objectively ascertained fact. Sympathy, enthusiasm and distress are not enough if we are going to tackle such vast projects as this (see Miss HI):—

"educating the local inhabitants in the value of their wild life, they the Dayaks only are specially must be taught the reasons and means for conserving it."

It would be interesting—and instructive—if Miss Brooks or team leader the Brooke Society as a whole would work out something clear and comprehensive along these lines (perhaps bearing in mind what this column said last month, also?). To try and bring, as Miss Brooks puts it:

"the natives . . . to a clear understanding of the simple cause-effect relationship between the killing of birds and increase of insects."

—that is a major project indeed in the present state of this colony and its educational levels and the still basic outlook of the (ex-)headmaster.

Let's get this thing in focus. Birds are only one part of the problem. Before we start on the transitory project of teaching the Pumas Biology and convincing the Selvans or Kenyahs that there are more insects than ever before (what have the W.H.O. boys been up to that?), how about making a start on the natives, which should be less difficult.

Now must the problem of plant conservation be overlooked. Many forms that occur in Borneo are rare and easily obliterated by indiscriminate felling or commercial collecting. The destruction of our flora exceeds by many times that of the fauna, though thanks to the

expenses of the Forestry Department much has been done to repair some of the crater, bulk areas in recent years.

#### No More Rouches?

Cockroaches differ from most animal insect pests in that they thrive on any sort of temperature, from scorching to air-conditioning. Miss Heester's generalizations do not touch them. They're also prepared to nibble at anything—playful like—down the spines of your fore-mails (if you sleep that good) to the hinding of your little if you are that good). They're almost undetectable out, if you follow the pose style,—not supposed to be based on Don Marquis (and the British Council for "Archie & Matilda"), his cockroach epic.

Perhaps you know that now, as in the patient medical advertisements, all your troubles are over and your rouches won't even be little ones. Perhaps you know; but most people still don't. So:

#### Hives

In a cardboard tube open both ends, with a pink meringue looking stuff in the middle. This goes to cockroaches as caviar to generals, and more. They inflate themselves of it and die. The effects are briefly staggering. Dead and dying cockroaches all around. It was hard to believe there were so many hidden around the bookcases and bird-sheds.

(Continued)

## The Good Old Days

V: DEAR CAROLINE wants me to tell a New Home.

It is not uncommon among uncivilized races, whose lives are influenced or rather haunted by superstitions of various kinds, to find the majority are in the habit of continually removing from place to place. Far more than half a dozen nations they desert their homes, even when only just finished. The terror of death or that some misfortune might befall their poorly crop of paddy, or the revelation of certain bad omens or ill omens, are the principal causes that will determine them promptly to leave their houses. Of course, we allow an exception to every rule, and these are cases when they have been forced to continue living in ruins. These kinds of houses are pronounced to be *bad*, i.e., the inmates have enjoyed good health, the crop of paddy has been always good, no deaths have occurred excepting old people and those whose illnesses have been of long standing.

A Dayak house really is a village. It is composed of several families building together under one roof. There is a chief in every house or village who rules his followers with unfriendly tendencies. The position of a chief is most honourable but most difficult to fill. His influence is just as great as his expenses. His room is generally in the centre of the house or village, and he lays the foundation of the house or village first. He is responsible for all visitors and entertains them.

Dayak houses or villages differ in size or rather in length according to the number of doors or families that build together under the same roof. It is almost generally the case to find all these living in the same houses related to each other. When we talk of Dayak building a new house, we understand that they are undertaking a more important task than building a house, it is a village they are building.

The chief assembles all his followers at a certain time in the evening in his room or reception room. Mats are spread, choice ingredients in profusion and meat or bones made today are placed in the centre. All the men sit in a circle with the women and children behind them. The chief opens the meeting after the distribution of the food. The subject is generally well-discussed and everybody gives his opinion. At such

a meeting the chief has to be most careful. Although his words carry weight, yet he has to go by the votes of the majority. It is, in fact, a sort of parliament, and the debates last a long time. Those who cannot agree with the final arrangement cut themselves off and join another house or village. In consequence the size or length of a Dayak house is not limited. To maintain the size of his house a chief has to exercise a great deal of self-denial. He is like a parent who has to make peace among his children and please them equally. His family must share his sympathy.

The day following the meeting all the men go out to examine the spot for the site of the house. If it be a good one they burnish it at once, i.e., they go to burn the dry grass of a certain land which prophecies health, fortune, and good luck. As soon as the good spot is obtained they cut a piece of wood and hang it at the spot where the house is to stand. The spot thereby is considered sacred, being guarded by the Kaya Barong which is hung thereon.

As soon as the site of the house is cleared they return, i.e., go to get material for the house. The site for the house must not be burnt jungle that is cut down is cast aside. If the site for the house is burnt, it will give less work than in carrying away the jungle that is cut down, but the house is said to be unclean. In it will be visited by plague and sickness. A convenient place is selected for the poles. The poles is the place for retreat in case of having a bad dream when cutting material for the house. Out of every kind of material collected for the building, one plant is cast aside as munggug having i.e., no pleasant essence in the case of having uncleaned bed clothes.

The building is done in common as far as putting up the posts and frame-work are concerned. The posts and frame-work are done in a day. It is called *ayam-ruang*. One door a day is put up. It is hurried through and everything is bound by ropes or the monkey-egg coaper called *anjer*. If there be the slightest shower of rain the work is knocked off. To work in the rain when building a new house is to prophecise the shedding of tears over some misfortune. The *ayam-ruang* begins in the morning and the work is supposed to be finished by one o'clock at midday.

The evening before the *ayam-ruang*, they ayam-peler, i.e., lay the foundation and arrange where the posts are to be. Nearly everybody goes to the site of the new building, men, women, and children, to beat their musical instruments. The noise is used challenging with the intention to avoid having a bad dream. A piece of bamboo about a span long is put into the ground on the site of the building and filled with water up to the brim. This ceremony of division is called *bilangai al*, which prophecises good or bad luck with reference to their yearly crops of paddy during the whole time they occupy the new house. If the water in the bamboo decreases considerably it indicates prolonged famine, and if it does not, it forecasts good years to come.

Before the *ayam-ruang* another meeting is held by the chief. This meeting is simply to arrange the situation of each person's door. The room they are related the nearer they build to one another. The first day of the *ayam-ruang* is an important and memorable one. A great sacrifice to Palung Gunu is offered for a propitiation, he being the god of the earth. A full grown pig is sacrificed and its blood is smeared on the middle post of the house and the carcass is eaten. *Maha al* used in the topic of consecration during the *ayam-ruang*. It signifies eating and fasting together on the verandah of their houses. This fasting after a spell of hard work is a welcome relaxation for them all. At the *ayam-ruang*, while the men are hard at work, all the women and children who are not engaged in preparing the midday repast beat the different instruments to deter their ears against an ill omen.

With some tribes the custom differs a little, the blood of the sacrificed pig is made to run into the hole of the central post of the house.

It is an understood thing that the chief supplies the pig, and the pig that is killed is also a pledge between the chief and his followers. It is however called a post or compensation to be made over to the chief whenever any of his followers leaves him.

(Rev. Mr. Horwell.)

## Suburbanalia

### Expeditions

Suburbanites are beginning to make names for themselves in the field of exploration. First of all there was the Donnelly Expedition which cut a determined route through the virgin swamps between Sarawak and Sungaipong; next came the Gordon Smith Expedition forcing its way by sheer weight of numbers through the mass forest of the Ulu Apau; now we have No. 14's daring exploration of the off-shore islands of Brunei. At the time of writing little has been heard of the fate of this latter party. It is known that they successfully negotiated the tricky currents and rapids of the Sarawak River, and managed to pass through the treacherous shoals and reefs of Kuala Sungaipong. They then crossed the typhoon twisted South China Sea as far as Palau Satang Island. From there on all is conjecture, though by the time these words appear in print their fate will doubtless be known.

An unconfirmed report from the Headquarters of the Field Expedition at Sibu last may received on the third evening, to the effect that three signals had been picked up from the general direction of the taking Antipodean. The first signals received consisted of the words "no, no no"—presumably a somewhat elaborate version for "Bangar". These were followed by the words "Send me". This seems an unusual request. It is known that the expedition lacks a skilled meteorologist and the chances are that they do not really require "me" at all. Possible alternatives are "no" or "do". Another suggestion is "noe". But "noe" what? It could hardly be "grob" as this was the one commodity the expedition had no lack of when it set off. The ultimate view which has prevailed, however, is that the word was intended to be "sue". This makes the expedition's predicament very understandable and arrangements have now been put in hand to supply the station by an air drop. The pilot has announced his intention of giving them 4 Quarts and a Keros—an ideal fuel for a dozen island!

### Equipment

The problem of what to take on these expeditions is not so difficult as it sounds provided you set about it the right way. Most people think of what they will probably want and make up a most formidable list. This is a sheer waste of time. Obviously the best line to take is to assume that you will need everything and

then make a list—and believe me it will be a much shorter one—of what you do not want. These items can then be put aside and you simply take with you everything that remains. Easy, isn't it?

One final hint—don't forget the kitchen sink! How often has one heard it said of expeditions: "They took absolutely everything with them except the kitchen sink". Sad to think that an expedition so perfectly equipped in every other respect should fall down over such a simple item.

Answer to last month's problem.

"Shorty" wins the prize. He refers to a recent headline in the Sarawak Tribune: "Connie Sweeping Over Batamah", and comments: "Perhaps No. 26 can now concentrate on mowing his lawn!"

Protagonist

## Shooting Activities

(The July record arrived too late for inclusion and is held over till September—Editor)

Rifle shooting featured as one of the major items of entertainment during the recent visit to Kuching of H.M.S. *Meteor*.

On their arrival on Saturday the Kuching Rifle Club entertained a team of 8 from the ship at the Club range at Pendang. The rain fell extremely heavily to commence with and everyone got wet through. However, the Navy declined to return to the ship without firing and so a match was held. Eventually for the last 15 or 20 minutes the sun came through and brightened up the atmosphere. The Navy lost, making scores of 1382 as against Kuching Rifle Club's 1443. Their best shot was Able Seaman Chipp who achieved a score of 184 out of possible 200.

Against the Sarawak Constabulary on Sunday the Navy fired a team of 6 in 100 on the miniature range and were beaten by the Constabulary, the scores being 213 out of a possible 360 to 264. At pistol they were again beaten with a score of 101 against Constabulary's 226 out of a possible 360. In both these matches Able Seaman Chipp was top-scorer achieving 46 out of 50 at 100 and 29 out of 50 at 50.

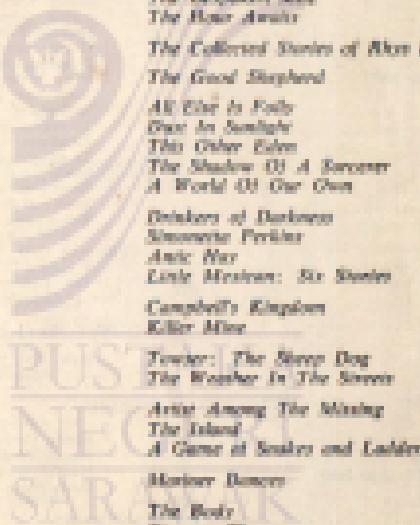
The Constabulary also entertained the Ship's company to a game of football at the Police Training School which the Constabulary won 4 to nil, and to a Football match at Bedrade Grounds which was won by Constabulary 2 to 1. After all these matches the hosts entertained the visiting team to refreshments and, although the visitors were beaten, there was no doubt that in every contest they showed a most friendly and competitive spirit.

J.P.S.

## Recent Books

The following books are new additions to the Sarawak Library:—

TITLE	AUTHOR	CATEGORY
Armstrong, Thomas	Adams, Ernestine	Fiction
Ashton, Helen	<i>A Gentleman in Powder</i>	"
Ashton, Helen	<i>Parson Austin's Daughter</i>	"
Bacon, Alexander		"
Bates, H. E.	<i>There's No Home</i>	"
Bates, H. E.	<i>Catherine Foster</i>	"
Bates, H. E.	<i>Charlotte's Rose</i>	"
Bates, H. E.	<i>The Father Land</i>	"
Bates, H. E.	<i>A House of Women</i>	"
Bates, H. E.	<i>Sophie He</i>	"
Bennett, Elizabeth	<i>The House in Paris</i>	"
Brough, John	<i>Windfall</i>	"
Cary, Joyce	<i>Anna Sewell</i>	"
Cary, Joyce	<i>An American Pilgrim</i>	"
Cary, Joyce	<i>Castile Curious</i>	"
Cary, Joyce	<i>HarrietJacobsand</i>	"
Cary, Joyce	<i>To Be A Pilgrim</i>	"
Chamberlain, Anne	<i>The Paul Dark Man</i>	"
Chewes, Howard	<i>An English for Some</i>	"
Collins, Norman	<i>Love in Our Time</i>	"
Conford, Alex	<i>A Gentle Surprise</i>	"
Cox, March	<i>The Beggar's Wife</i>	"
Cox, March	<i>The Hour Awakes</i>	"
Devon, Rhys	<i>The Collected Stories of Rhys Devon</i>	"
Forsyth, C. S.	<i>The Good Shepherd</i>	"
Gaskin, Catherine	<i>All Else Is Folly</i>	"
Gaskin, Catherine	<i>Our In Sunlight</i>	"
Gaskin, Catherine	<i>This Other Eden</i>	"
Gibbons, Stella	<i>The Shadow Of A Brother</i>	"
Glaskin, G. M.	<i>A World Of Our Own</i>	"
Hawley, Gerald	<i>Dealers of Darkness</i>	"
Hawley, L. P.	<i>Unknown Peril</i>	"
Hawley, Aldous	<i>Anti-Her</i>	"
Hawley, Aldous	<i>Little Mexican: Six Stories</i>	"
Innes, Hammond	<i>Campbell's Kingdom</i>	"
Innes, Hammond	<i>Killer Mine</i>	"
Lamond, Henry G.	<i>Tower: The Sleepy Dog</i>	"
Lohman, Rosamond	<i>The Weather In The Street</i>	"
Manning, Olivia	<i>Actor Among The Missing</i>	"
Matheson, Jean	<i>The Island</i>	"
Moore, Denis Langley	<i>A Game of Snakes and Ladders</i>	"
Newby, P. H.	<i>Mariner Dances</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>The Body</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>Freemason Flower</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>The Passionate North</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>Something Terrible, Something Lovely</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>The Hollow</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>Strangers and Brothers</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>Rose Tinted</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>The Donkey Show</i>	"
Saxton, William	<i>Aut Clara</i>	"
Taylor, Phyllis M.	<i>Buckskin and Blackboard</i>	"
Trotter, Nigel	<i>There Are Worse Angles</i>	"
Wallace, Dorcas	<i>Dougherty</i>	"
Warren, Rex	<i>Men of Stone</i>	"
Waughs, Evelyn	<i>Black Mischief</i>	"
Waughs, Evelyn	<i>A Hospital of Dust</i>	"
Waughs, Evelyn	<i>Heaves</i>	"
Waughs, Evelyn	<i>Officers and Gentlemen</i>	"
Waughs, Evelyn	<i>Put One More Flare</i>	"
Waughs, Evelyn	<i>Scoop: A Novel About Journalism</i>	"
Wilson, Angus	<i>Such Darling Doctors and Other Stories</i>	"
Wilson, Angus	<i>The Wrong Sex and Other Stories</i>	"





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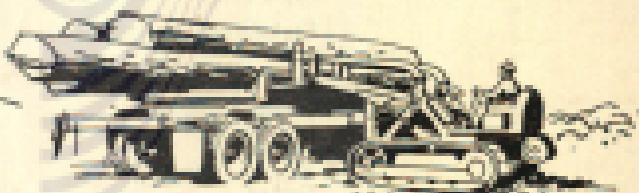
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