

Sarawak Gazette

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The Sarawak Gazette

THURSDAY, MAY 31st, 1936

Saying for the Month

No friendship can survive the gift of gold; the generous can indeed forget that they have given; but the grateful can never forget that they have received.

WILLIAM SMITH

Hari Raya Message by H.E. the Governor

It seems a very short time ago that I was speaking to you at Hari Raya, but another year has gone by, and I hope it has brought you and your families happiness and some at least of your wishes.

Let me start this message by wishing you all—the Malay people of Sarawak—Selamat Hari Raya. May you enjoy this holiday as I know your many parents will, with an abundance of goodwill, good food and good fellowship without I hope spending the best of your hard-won earnings on acquiring the temporary replacement of your wife's jewelry.

Hari Raya is, as we all know, a religious celebration but it is also a great family occasion when the unity of the family has a very special significance. May I suggest to you that this particular feature of this festival is of great importance to the Malay people at the present time and should therefore be kept in mind by you all. This is an age when family ties are being stretched to breaking point by the strains and stresses of this century sea through which our world is passing. I don't suppose that even in the history of mankind have the problems of the immediate future loomed so large and so menacingly.

There was a time when I feared that the Malay people were not going to answer the challenge of this new world, that they were to be overcome by it and submerge, in Sarawak at any rate, to a position and a standing inferior to that to which they are entitled by tradition and merit. But I believe young Malays realize that they must seek education and cultivate the habits of industry and perseverance if they are to obtain a place in the sun today. I believe many of you are aware of the fact that nothing but your own energy and ability can help you in this struggle. I am encouraged in this belief by the fact that 50% of the total attendance at night classes in Kuching are Malays. I believe and hope that many thoughtful Malays are aware that you require time, some years of hard work and preparation to make up the lost way and equip you for your proper place in this modern, educated and highly competitive world of which Sarawak is a part.

You Malays have played a major role in the history of this country; you have been the most prominent name in the administration and in the councils of the Rajahs. You must not give up your position—your experience and ability is needed now as never before. But it will require an effort, and it cannot be achieved by the young alone.

In this struggle the Malays will require all the strength and qualities of their national heritage. First I would put the discipline and devotion inspired by Islam—the unity of the family—the sense of tradition—the standards of personal behaviour and courtesy. These are the old values which must be blended with the new ideas of the younger generation if the Malays, and indeed all of us, are to make any progress in the future. It is the parents, the father and mother of today—in fact the family unit brought together at this time of rejoicing which can alone impose the old values on this new and bewildering scene.

I shall long remember such Hari Raya that I have spent in Sarawak—the comrades of crackers rivaling now another great day of rejoicing in the Sarawak Calendar. The kampong lights at night, the bright surrings and bujas and the vast array of good things to eat and drink and their subsequent gesticulations. But above all the smiling faces, the unsmothered spirit of hospitality and friendliness which make us strangers feel humble and grateful because you have asked us to share it with you as your friends.

I wish you all Selamat Hari Raya and the best of good fortune throughout the coming year.

Notes and Comments

The Hari Raya festival shares with Chinese New Year the honour of providing our most interesting occasion. To such, Sarawak has great social significance not possessed to the same extent elsewhere. On May 11th doors were again opened wide to all for Hari Raya, and if the hordes on arrival and departure had not the same *Asiat* as in the past (these customs do not last for ever), they were sufficient. This year there was a revival of the custom of firing a gun at 8.30 a.m. to begin the visiting day. Sentimentally we regret the increased use of coloured electric lights and the lesser number of softly flickering candles and kerosene lamps. But a successful fest, blessed with fair weather and enjoyed by all.

This must indeed have been a prosperous year for the Malays of Sarawak judging by the record number of pilgrims who are leaving for Mecca during the next few weeks. We hope that the 400 or so Sarawak Muslims who are making the pilgrimage will not return impoverished with spiritual riches in face a large crowd at the local towkay's.

The Kuching Boy Scouts Association held a very successful Camp Fire on April 26th. His Excellency the Governor declared the Camp Fire open and put the first torch to the wood pile, then he, other guests and some hundreds of spectators were entertained to songs, dancing and short sketches from Scouts and Guides. It was good to see stationery troops represented. Lunche and Samabong were substantial parties, the Lunche scouts themselves manning the sailing boat which brought them to Kuching.

In Sila at the end of April, Boy Scouts and Navers commemorated St. George's Day in a simple ceremony in the Boys' Club. They were reminded of their founder, Lord Baden-Powell, and at the close they renewed their Scout promise and heard the Scout law read in Chinese, Malay and English.

Visitors during the past month have been many and varied. We were glad to see some old friends amongst them. Revd. Brother Patrick, late Principal of St. Joseph's School, Kuching, was a welcome sight. Returned to health and at work again in Malaya, he could not resist a visit to Sarawak and managed to cross in some extensive visiting while here.

Canon Adams, now retired from St. Andrew's School, Singapore, passed through to North Borneo, but he did not make a welcome from friends. He will be in Sarawak later for some months to advise on certain aspects of educational development.

The Revd. Jack Sparrow has come to attend the consecration of the new Cathedral of St. Thomas in Kuching. He has been able to renew personal acquaintance with many of the people who remember him so well. He hopes to revisit the Saribas where he served for some years before the war.

Mr. H. M. Macfarland, Australian Trade Commissioner in Malaya and North Borneo, came to discuss Australia-Borneo trade. We are already gratified to Australia for so much help under the Colombo plan; increased trade with her would be most welcome.

The Deputy Director General of the British Council, Mr. Kenneth Johnstone and Mrs. Johnstone paid a brief visit to Kuching during May as part of their official tour of the Far East. Mr. Johnstone enjoyed a trip to Sating to see the Serah ceremonies and later that evening he and Mrs. Johnstone attended a social evening in the British Council Library and were introduced to some of our Sarawak musicians and musical instruments. They left for Djakarta and will also visit Bangkok before returning to London.

It is unfortunate that we are as yet unable to take advantage of such expert knowledge as is possessed by another visitor, Mr. Robert de Quincy, who is an authority on Blandford cattle. Here however his main interest lay in the possibility of acquiring some of our birds for his private collection.

Dr. Carl Schuster may add to our knowledge of Kuching art, Dayak designs and such things. Dr. Schuster has come to work with Mr. Tom Harrison at the Sarawak Museum on some of the problems presented by Asian arts and cultures.

Sir Alexander MacFarquhar, Regional Representative for the Far East of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board also paid us a short visit to find what our needs are with a view to helping us to supply them.

An American journalist, Mr. Walter Briggs is on a visit of several weeks to Sarawak. Mr. Briggs lives in Hong Kong from where he keeps many American newspapers and broadcasting agencies supplied with information on China.

Congratulations go to Mrs. Choo Tuck Huk, Madame Barbara Hey and Dr. Gopala Pillai. All these have been made Life Members of the British Red Cross Society during the past year. We were reminded of this at the Annual General Meeting of the Sarawak Branch held this month. The report for the year showed a welcome increase in membership and great activity in the Junior section.

Readers will remember the courage of Miss Elizabeth Chiew Hoon Choo of Sila. Miss Chiew went to the assistance of Sister Winifreda at the Sila Benedict Home after both had been attacked by a deranged inmate, armed with a parang. Though herself seriously wounded, Miss Chiew unhesitatingly saved the life of Sister Winifreda. We are pleased to hear that her courage has been recognised by Her Majesty the Queen's award of the British Empire Medal.

Another party of twenty-five Sarawak Rangers returned from Malaya to spend a few weeks leave in Sarawak. It is now quite a familiar sight to see these men in their jungle green passing through Kuching and ladies with Singapore shopping to be taken home in their wives and families. Accompanying this party was Second Lieutenant M. A. Aris of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in Malaya who will be the guest of the Rangers in their longhouses in the Second Division.

The Muskeeter with Captain D. R. Davies and his research team brought hope of more and better fish for Sarawak. There was news of fishing grounds off the Natuna and Anambas Islands which might prove profitable for deep sea fishing.

In the middle of May there was some fishing excitement off Pangkajene Ataman in Kuching. Several brought a good haul of salted vegetables, jerked from the fire after the sun agreed on the evening of the 16th May. The stormy flood off the 17th evening. It is indeed an ill wind..... through here probably was the result of this. Fortunately the ship was not greatly damaged.

The partial eclipse of the moon on the evening of the 14th May was clearly seen in Kuching, and, we expect, in other parts of Sarawak. Fortunately the moon did not entirely disappear; the dazzling cluster of craters, gongs, drums, empty cans and kerosene tins, not to mention the dogs, cleverly veiled away the thing that was devouring the moon and all is well.

The Serah ceremonies at Tukung Tukung and Sating over the Whitsun weekend were celebrated with customary enthusiasm. The battle of eggs does not attract us, but we were interested to hear of the return of the first of the marked turtles. The tagging was done more

than a year ago and it seems that it may provide information about breeding habits and migrations which is so important to a study of the world wide decline in turtle population.

A new building for the Malak Foonchow Association was opened by Mr. A. McChellan, the Acting District Officer, Malak on May 14th. Mr. McChellan in his address, stressed the importance of inter-racial harmony and co-operation and gave a brief history of the Foonchows in Malak.

"In 1820 five Foonchows under the late Ngai Ngai Si came to Malak and settled on the land opposite the Dispensary. In 1873 the late Tiong Siew Loong and the late Loi Kook Ching with another 20 or more Foonchows came and turned the Shayan jungle into the rubber gardens that now exist. In 1903 the Ming Kong Association was formed. In the 22 years between 1931 and 1953 the Malak Foonchows, like the Ming Kong River, moved a long way and made great progress. In 1953 the Association changed its name from Ming Kong to Foonchow, the Capital of Fookien. The five pioneers who came to Malak with nothing 56 years ago, are now represented by a community of over 600 Foonchows on the banks of the Malak River. The Businesses in Foonchow lands are the River Launches, a Saw-mill, a Cinema, Rice Mills, an Ice Factory, some Shophouses, Boat Handling, and I hope, later this year a rubber scrap mill. There is a Foonchow Dispensary and there are school teachers and of course rubber gardeners and padi farmers."

Kuching's newest club, the Sarawak Motor Club, has been most vigorous in its activities since its formation a few months ago. Its latest activity was a Rally held on White Monday at Kuching Airport. A good crowd turned out to see such unusual events as Musical Chairs played with cars and motor cycles, a mobile Lucky Dip and children's soapbox race. There have been many clubs formed in Kuching with equal enthusiasm, but if the Sarawak Motor Club can fulfil its aim of improving the standard of driving of motorists and motor-cyclists, no hope it will have greater success and a longer life than many of them. Perhaps it could also tackle the cyclists!

It is good to note the increased attention being paid to minor sports as part of the festivities on the occasion of Regattas. Following a successful regatta at Kapit we have advance news of an ambitious three day event at Kuching at the end of June. Football, athletics and dancing form part of the programme. Pudding Thrower falls away in popular esteem, the speedboat and hydroplane tend to suit the traditional method of propulsion even for sporting purposes.

In June, students of Batu Lintang are attempting to repeat their achievements of last year. While they have nothing as glamorous as the Uman Apes in mind, they hope to derive some pleasure and profit from visits to Pontianak and Jesselton, as well as the regions of Serian, Sintang and Betong/Kuching.

Arrivals and Departures

(28th April, 1956 to 11th May, 1956)

Arrivals

Mrs. T. H. Harrison	By air on 1st May, 1956. To join Mr. T. Harrison.
Mr. E. A. Edwards	By air on 5th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mrs. E. J. Harper and Daughter	By air on the 10th May, 1956. To join Mr. Harper.
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Fleming & Son	By air on 11th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.

Mr. & Mrs. R. W. F. Fothergill & Family	By air Singapore/Brunei, on 14th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mr. & Mrs. M. Marshall & child	By air, Singapore/Brunei, on 14th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Bradshaw	By air, Singapore/Brunei, on 14th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Spicer and child	By air, Singapore/Brunei, on 14th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mr. Justice M. R. F. Rogers	By air on 20th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mr. & Mrs. G. S. Wilson	By air on 21st May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mr. J. C. H. Burdett	By air on 22nd May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Miss L. Smith	By air, Singapore/Brunei, on 14th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mrs. J. H. Ellis and 3 children	By air on 16th May, 1956. To join Mr. Ellis.
Departures	
Mr. F. Ruggie	By air on 16th April, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Miss B. Newell	By air on 19th April, 1956. Proceeding on leave prior to termination of full agreement.
Mr. & Mrs. T. S. Anderson and child	By air, Ipoh/Singapore, on 16th April, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Miss L. A. Hooper	By air on 1st May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. H. S. Brown and 2 children	By Aerlin Malak/Singapore on 2nd May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. P. C. Ogden and 2 children	By July on 7th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Chester	By Aerlin Malak/Singapore on 7th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. G. A. James and 2 children	By air on 7th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. D. B. Forthwick and daughter	By air on 9th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
The Honourable Mr. Chin Chin Chin	By air Malak/Singapore on 10th May, 1956. Proceeding to U.K. on Local Government study tour.
Mr. Song Thien Chock	By air on 11th May, 1956. Proceeding to U.K. on Local Government study tour.
Mr. & Mrs. C. G. P. Milington	By Aerlin Malak on 11th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. G. T. Myles and family	By Aerlin Malak/Singapore on 14th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Roe	By air on 14th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. Chang Ti Kang	By air Malak/Singapore on 14th May, 1956. Proceeding to U.K. on Local Government study tour.
Mr. Mah. Yus. Lim	By air Malak/Singapore on 14th May, 1956. Proceeding to U.K. on Local Government study tour.
Mr. & Mrs. M. B. McCabe and family	By air on 16th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. G. Bennett	By air on 18th May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Duthies	By air on 11st May, 1956. Proceeding on leave.
Mrs. E. H. Williams	By Aerlin Malak on 20th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mrs. P. E. Turnbull and son	By Aerlin Malak on 20th May, 1956. Returning from Ipoh.
Mr. & Mrs. John Day	By Aerlin Malak on 20th May, 1956. Proceeding to U.K. on leave.

HARI RAYA

This month is marked by one of the most important annual events in the Muslim world, the festival after the completion of Ramadan, the lunar month throughout which the Muslims fast.

Towards the end of Ramadan all Muslims pay their *fiqh* or laid down by *Shari'ah*—the Muslim book of laws. *Fiqh* is a kind of religious tax intended for helping the needy. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, by this, laid down the foundation of the work, which is known now-a-days as social welfare. Although he asked every Muslim to pay *fiqh* he very clearly stated that the very poor need not pay it. We have a great deal to learn from this humanitarian aspect of taxation.

In some countries such as certain states in Malaya *fiqh* is collected by a special body and this body in turn ensures that the sum collected is properly distributed for the purposes as laid down by *Shari'ah*. In this country every Muslim is free to hand over his or her *fiqh* to whomsoever he wishes, governed by certain conditions, one of which is that the receiver must be a Muslim—a practice which, I think, is open to exploitation by the selfish.

The festival, known here as Hari Raya, is one of the most lively and extravagant of its kind and it lasts for a number of days, varying from two to twelve days. Early in the morning of Hari Raya Muslims go to the mosques for a special service. On this day visitors are fascinated by colourful dresses and friendly smiles meeting them everywhere. As soon as the service is over men, women and children are to be seen visiting houses where they are offered delicious cakes and drinks. It is characteristic of this country that almost all races join in the festivities. Houses are newly painted and decorated. Nights are characterized by thousands of lamps illuminating the houses and streets and by the deafening sound of fire-crackers—a marked Chinese influence.

The greatest significance of this festival is, I think, the spirit of friendship it inspires between all races in Sarawak. Both Muslims and Non-Muslims are welcomed to their (the Muslims') houses and everyone is treated alike with friendship and, often, overabundant hospitality.

ABDUL ZAHID

Local Government Conference— 13th and 14th April, 1956.

Recently the first Local Government Conference ever to be held in Sarawak met in Kuching and was attended by some seventy five delegates and observers. This was probably numerically the biggest and certainly the most representative gathering of officials and unofficials throughout Sarawak ever to be convened in Kuching, and there is no doubt that considerable benefit was gained thereby, both to the councillors and to Government.

The project of this conference was formulated towards the end of last year, and on the 5th January a circular was sent out to all Residents and District Officers inviting 3 delegates from each Local Authority to attend. Invitations were also extended to the Governments of Brunei and North Borneo to send observers. The object of the conference was to discuss matters of mutual interest, such as raising, the provision of public utilities, by-laws, staffing problems and future developments. The conference was timed to take place before His Excellency's departure on leave and in order to fit in with shipping facilities from the north. In actual fact, however, all the delegates from the Fifth Division and some from the Fourth travelled by air in preference to sea.

During the second week in April, therefore, some seventy representatives including two observers from Brunei and one from North Borneo congregated in Kuching and were accommodated either by private individuals or at the Aurora Hotel, Government Rest House or the Dayak Rest House. For those delegates staying at the Dayak Rest House, transport was taken at Government expense throughout their stay in Kuching to bring them to and from the conference, to and from the various official functions to which they were invited and in connection with their arrival and departure. It had been agreed that Government would pay the cost of all passages to the conference, while Local Authorities would pay allowances or Hotel expenses, as the case may be, for councillors during their stay in Kuching, and Government would pay a travelling allowance in the normal way for Government officers.

The conference was opened in the Kuching Municipal Council Chamber at 9 a.m. on Friday, 13th April, by His Excellency, the Governor, whose speech has already been published in the Gazette. His Excellency was followed by Mr. Ellis, the Chief Secretary, who spoke at length on the subject of democracy.

The Secretary for Local Government, Mr. J. R. Outram, then took the chair and the conference got down to business.

The first item on the Agenda was the proposal to form a Local Government Association. This idea originated from the former Chief Secretary, Mr. Ashman, who, in the course of his reflections on retirement in Australia, had put forward the proposal that such an Association of Local Authorities should be formed to keep councils in touch one with another and to form a body of opinion from which the future development of Local Government could stem. The proposal was welcomed by the Conference, but the opinion was generally held that the formation of such an Association at the present time would be premature and that it would be preferable to wait for a few years until all Councils were completely unofficial in membership.

The subject of publicity was also broached and it was agreed that whereas some sort of Local Government journal was undeniably desirable, this publication should also await the formation of the Association, whose organ it would be. In the meantime Local Government publicity should be achieved through the existing press and through Radio Sarawak.

The second item on the Agenda was the question of rating, and agreement was reached in principle that whenever Local Authority services were supplied, even in Malay Kampong, rating should be implemented as soon as possible. In this connection Mr. and Mrs. Sarker emphasized the fact that it was difficult for them to impose rating until Kuching had taken the lead. On the other hand Limbang and Matang pointed out that they had already imposed such rating locally without waiting for a lead from anywhere else. Other technical aspects of rating were also discussed. The need for a set of model By-laws was emphasized, and it was decided that the draft Brunei model should be used as a basis for a model set for Sarawak.

The subject of elections and the introduction of an electoral system for Local Authorities was discussed at length, and with the assistance of the Acting Attorney General, Mr. Young, who must have worked late into the following night producing a formula to suit the requirements of all Councils, considerable unanimity was achieved on the question of qualifications of councillors and voters in urban and rural areas.

The formation of local committees and the supervision of Local Authority services in outlying places were also discussed, various councillors stressed the difficulties which they encountered in bringing Local Government to the outlying areas of their district, but the principle was agreed that it was highly improper for councillors themselves to exercise executive functions on behalf of the council, and that the supervision of Local Government work should be in the hands of paid Local Government officers.

The Acting Financial Secretary, Mr. Hepburn, addressed the conference on Government's policy in affording financial assistance to Local Authorities for public utilities and capital works. It was pointed out that implementation of any such projects was always dependent on the Local Authority producing a practicable and economic plan. The preparation of such schemes was, however, often impossible owing to the lack of technical assistance and all delegates stressed the need for more such assistance, especially on the engineering side.

The Director of Medical Services, Dr. Glyn Evans, led a discussion on the development of medical and health services throughout the country and the finding of the Conference generally was that councils would give the fullest possible support to the development of health services by the employment of more trained midwives and health visitors and that there were of greater benefit and importance in the long run than doctors or hospital consultants, so much of whose work was neutralized by ignorance.

Agricultural development under Local Government auspices was also discussed with the Director of Agriculture, Mr. Cook, present, and he explained to the conference the implications of the rubber planting scheme.

Local Authority Education was also discussed at some length, and the Director of Education, Mr. DeLinton, gave valuable advice to delegates on the subject. It was agreed that where possible the Local Authority should employ a school affairs officer to supervise the administration of Local Authority schools but that the maintenance of educational standards should remain the responsibility of the Education Department through the Inspector of Schools.

The subject of the interchange of staff between Local Authorities produced a lively discussion; the general feeling was that considerable benefit could be achieved by officers of one Local Authority doing duty temporarily with another and vice versa. Much valuable experience could thus be gained and unanimity of procedure would be achieved. It was suggested that officers from some of the smaller councils might do a spell in Kuching, and that Kuching Municipal Council personnel might benefit from seeing the problems facing rural councils. There followed some sharp reports between Kuching and the outstations on the relative merits and demerits of Kuching versus outstation life. It was quite apparent, for instance, that Temenggong Jagoi, much as he appreciated the bright lights of the Aurora Hotel, found considerable value in the healthier and less expensive methods of relaxation, such as hunting, shooting and fishing, to be enjoyed at Kapit.

The Accountant General, Mr. Cockle, was brought into the conference to give advice on the possibility of the training of Local Government staff in office procedure and in the simplification of office organization. It was agreed that the Accountant General should evolve a new form of multipurpose Local Government receipt which would, by means of symbols, make clear to the tax-payer for what purpose he had parted with his money.

At the end of the meeting the Acting Commissioner of Constabulary, Mr. Turnbull, was invited to address the conference on the shortage of Chinese personnel in the Police Force. He emphasized the fact that until more Chinese were recruited to the ranks of the Constabulary it would be impossible for the Police to give to the Chinese the service which they desired and he sought the assistance of the Conference to encourage such recruitment.

The conference was conducted throughout in English although delegates were invited to speak in their own language if they so wished. Naturally enough there was criticism of this procedure in that some 25% of the delegates were non-English speaking. It was, however, pointed out that, if there had been word for word in-

terpretation throughout, the conference would have lasted some 4 or 5 days, and would undoubtedly have achieved little more than was in fact the result. As it was, the seating was so arranged that the leader of each delegation sat at the table with his two co-delegates just behind him. If, therefore, they were unable to understand what was being said he could turn round and explain to them items of interest from time to time and ask them their opinion on any problems posed. This was in fact done, and the result was reasonably successful.

The conference ended appropriately at 12.15 p.m. on Saturday, the 14th. In addition to the results achieved in the conference chamber, the delegates were given valuable opportunities to meet and exchange views at the official social functions to which they were invited at the Aurora and at the Chief Secretary's House, while they also doubtless reaped some benefit from their change of environment, the Aurora Hotel in its turn reaping corresponding profit from their patronage of its amenities.

I.R.O.

Ulu Medical Trainees

The following is the substance of an address given by Dr. W. Glyn Evans, Director of Medical Services, to the Local Government Conference, in Kuching on the subject of training from upcountry.

I think you all know the kind of people we are considering today, but it is not easy to define them in a few words. The women we call 'Midwives' or 'Bidans' but for the men we have not yet got any proper designation, and perhaps the Conference will be able to help to suggest a title for these people. At present they are called 'Ulu Doctors' or some such title, but officially they are Hospital Attendants and are paid on that scale.

The success of the training scheme of these up-country people has been very great indeed and has brought with it certain very serious problems which await solution. In the case of girls training as midwives the difficulties are not so great, so let us consider these first.

These girls are recruited from distant upcountry places and also from not so distant and brought in to Kuching, Sibu or Seremang to be trained as midwives. The only qualifications absolutely necessary for such a girl are that she should be between the ages of 15 and 20 and should be of good moral character and good reputation. In some countries, but not in Sarawak, there is a tendency for the midwife to be of low moral character and conversely for the local women of low character to become midwives. As I say, it does not happen in Sarawak, but we want to be very careful to guard against even a suspicion of it here and so it is essential that girls coming to be trained as midwives be of good repute, and preferably from well-known and highly respected local families. I say that the only two essential qualifications are her age and reputation. We do not specify any particular education or language qualification but of course it is exceedingly difficult to train a girl who speaks neither English nor Malay and if she has no schooling at all it adds to the difficulties and so whenever possible we very much prefer to have girls with at least some schooling and some ability to read and write preferably with some knowledge of the English language. The majority of such girls will be trained in Kuching, but a few can also be trained at Sibu and about two or three per year at Seremang. The limiting factor is the number of births in a hospital in a year. A midwife under training must herself conduct at least 30 deliveries under supervision, but because for practical reasons it is not always possible for pupils to be present at every delivery, the calculation

in that 30 deliveries in a hospital in a year enable us to train one midwife. This in Kuching we can theoretically train 60 to 70 midwives annually.

Until now we have in practice not been able to train more than about 20, and actually the number under training in Kuching today is 23. This is because the accommodation has been insufficient but money has been voted and arrangements are being made to increase the maternity facilities at the General Hospital, and we shall therefore, later in the year, be able to increase the number of midwives under training here to about 60. The numbers at Serangap and Sibu will, for the time being, have to remain rather limited. The length of training of a midwife is something over a year, part of which time she spends outside the hospital under the supervision of the Health Sister attending maternity cases in their own homes and in the clinic.

It is a fairly common sight in Kuching now to see these girls, looking very smart, cycling around the town with the midwives' aluminium bag on the carrier of her bicycle. During training these girls are paid a subsistence allowance but after training the idea is that they will return to their lampungs or longhouses and will no longer receive payment from the Central Government. In some cases where circumstances warrant it they will be supported by the Local Authority, but in the majority of instances they will simply revert to their former life, perhaps get married and live just as they would have done had they not been trained but their services will be available for births in their area and of course they will be free to make whatever arrangements they can for payment either in cash or kind for their services.

For these upcountry midwives and also for the *ulu dressers* it is in my mind exceedingly important that they must preserve their identity as members of the community from which they came. They must not become knownes, the young men must not cut their hair and the young women must not have plastic surgery to their ears. If they do, they become knownes to their own people and they are regarded as something strange instead of preserving their identity as members of the local community.

The case of the young men who train here is rather different. They come for about a year, work in the wards and outpatient departments and are taught in a very elementary but practical way some of the simplest things about medicine. They are taught for instance how to diagnose malaria and the trinitrate for it, the same for yaws and how to handle a syringe and give injections. They are capable of the simplest surgical procedures such as opening an abscess or sewing up a cut. One of these men who has completed his training, a Sepoy by the name of Madang Balan, accompanied the Oxford Expedition on their recent trip to the Ulu Apin Plains and when the leader of the expedition, Mr. Arnold, had a serious accident and very badly injured his right leg, Madang was able to operate on it and sew it up with right stitches with a perfect final result. However, it must not be thought by anybody that these so called *ulu dressers* after training are the equivalent of doctors or even of our fully trained Hospital Assistants, nothing like it and hence lies one of our dilemmas.

The time will certainly come, sooner or later, may be in five years, may be in ten or more when our regular medical services will be extended further and further into the *ulu* and places where there is now only one of these *ulu dressers* will be covered by properly trained and expert regular members of our medical department staff. When that time comes the problem will be what to do with these *ulu dressers*. By then it may be expected in any one place that the *ulu dresser* will have made a name for himself and will have become a very much respected and important member of the community and it will not be so easy to say "We don't want you any more". I should like the Conference to give thought to this problem and because

of it I think we must not go ahead too fast with this type of training.

For the time being a very definite want is being filled by these people and in my opinion we can safely go ahead a little more but not too much in training some more of them, but I still want to have a good title for them. I believe that in some parts of India such people are called "Mistris (that)" and I wonder would that be a good title here? If any of you have an idea for a title for these men please let me know.

Photographic Competition

The Sarawak Gazette announces a second Photographic Competition, open to all amateur photographers. Prizes of \$50, \$25 and \$10 will be awarded to the winning entries chosen by a panel of judges comprising Mrs. Heide Morrison, Abang Mohdali bin Abang Haji Isma and one other, who we hope will be Mr. K. F. Wong, at present in Japan. The photographs will be judged for their general interest and appeal and their photographic quality.

Competitors should study the following rules carefully and we look forward to a second number of entries and no disqualifications!

RULES

1. The photograph may be of any subject taken in Sarawak, North Borneo or Brunei during the last 12 months.
2. The photograph must have been taken, but not necessarily processed, by the entrant personally.
3. Professional photographers and any person who is gainfully employed in any photographic studio, shop or store, are not eligible to compete.
4. Prints should be on glossy paper not less than 5 inches by 7 inches, and should be unmounted.
5. Nothing should be written on the print, but the entrant should enclose a sheet of paper with his name, address, title of the photograph, and locality where it was taken.
6. Copyright will remain with the entrant, but the Editors reserve the right to publish the winning and other photographs once in the Gazette without fee.
7. All entries must reach the Editors before August 1st, 1956.
8. All entries should be addressed to:—The Editors, The Sarawak Gazette, Kuching, Sarawak and marked "Photographic Competition", and should include a stamped, addressed envelope if the entrant wishes his print to be returned.

Ulu Problems, 1956

1. A WING AND A PRAYER?

The first of a series of four articles.

"In the dull catalogue of human things,
Philosophy will clip an Angel's Wings".

KEATS.

Those who wish well for the future of the interior in Sarawak (and Borneo generally), will have read with regret that in May recently Mr. Bruce Morrison and two companions in the Borneo Evangelical Mission's Avana plane, crashed at Long Atip, one of the *Missions* ("pocies handkerchiefs" strips in the *woor* Borneo. Happily no damage was done to bodies; disastrous damage to plane, though.

Earlier that same week, on May 1st, in a ceremony at Anduki, Mr. G. E. Hales of R.M.P. (Shells) had presented an Auster to the same Mission. Mr. Alan Belcher, Mission head, offered prayers for the plane, after pilot Bruce Morton had said:

"We are doing it for the Lord..... we are not, however, prepared to use an aircraft without a great deal of prayer. Prayer meetings are held early in the mornings and all the people wherever we go continue to pray for the safety of the aircraft".

I have no way of knowing what went wrong in this respect, later that same week at Long Arip. Long ago, however, I remember that I was taught that humility as to self-position is desirable in the sight of the Lord invoked on this ceremonial occasion by friends Belcher and Morton.

But that is beside the point here..... though it does lead to speculations on methods of educating relatively unsophisticated inland people in a new faith and its applications to mechanics and scientific technology.

To those who have flown the world as B.O.A.C., Qantas, P.A.A., S.A.S., R.E.M., Sabak, without benefit of clergy, it will seem that what makes a plane go is engineering, maintenance, instruments, adequate servicing, fuel, met, intelligence, crew skill, etc. (not forgetting the free market!). There is a real danger that with small planes running on small resources, over difficult terrain like Borneo's, accidents can happen rather easily. This is the third serious crash in an Auster in the interior since the first six-strip was made up on the Kelabit country by S.R.D. As I was in two of them (B.A.A.F. Auster, 1945; B.M.P. Auster, 1955) I write with some feeling.

The "future" of inland Borneo, in our "western" sense, has been long delayed. But whether our flies in or not, it is no longer practicable to treat the interior as a sort of Human Wilderness. Since 1945, the changed regimes in all four Borneo territories have sharply accelerated change and led to a situation where some of the people furthest inland, so long cut off from the world, are becoming among the most "progressive" and most anxious for a new way of life.

The Borneo Evangelical Mission, which now operates over a large (and expanding) area of the Fourth and Fifth Divisions in Sarawak and the uplands of North Borneo as far north as Ranau, is in a way a double symbol of this new mood. Its Auster represents a "progressiveness" in which it has shown forthright and enterprise ahead of any other responsible body since the war. In 1947 we had an B.A.A.F. (strictly should!) Auster flight based on the Kelabit country and operating, sometimes several times daily, to the Australian bases on Tunkan Island to the west and Limbang to the north (over lap held territory). All that was abandoned with the armistice. The purpose which survived such modern Mission flight symbolises its great new influence—partly by virtue of the Auster itself and related material services directly—in overthrowing old customs; in leading an illiterate people towards an extremely strict type of Suburbanism, neo-total, neo-working, fundamentalist, doctrinal, church-official disciplined community with frequent daily prayers and sermons, such as can seldom be found to exist in normal western society.

Alan Belcher and Bruce Morton have been leaders of this theological and material upheaval, along with others—several of whom have for various reasons later dissociated themselves from this Mission since the war,—such as "Barber" White in North Borneo, C. Hudson Southwell (long its head) and government's own Ro Boucher in Sarawak.

Bruce Morton has taught us all what consummate craftsmanship in flying can do, in conditions of improvised strips, little or no met, data, inadequately mapped ground, among great mountain ranges (Mulu, Mulu, the Crocker, Kinabalu itself) where storms boil up in minutes and the whole air becomes a mass of 20,000 ft piled conglomeration. As Bruce said at Anduki, he is doing it: "for the Lord".

No one who did not truly believe that could have flown as he has done—alone in a lonely airman's world—these last few years. Compared with him, our B.A.A.F. pilots of 1945 seem punies.

The next phase, though, will have to be more strictly secular again. And it is possible that if the R.E.M. rely very much more on the incapable to keep them aloft, they may by further accident retard rather than advance the cause they have so sincerely at heart — the cause of the remote inland people, far from the supposed benefits of modern mass civilisation and techniques. The pioneering stage is almost over now. It will soon be time for larger units to take responsibility for these services—to Long Arip, Long Tobangan (where we saw the R.E.M. nearly crash three years ago) and Lim Batu on the Ramau, Baris in the highlands, Long Semadoh and Kub Kalahan on the Trusan fall of which have workable embryo strips now, as well of course as to the upper reaches of the Limbang, Tinian, Belaga, Bulai, &c and those other remote places with good country and good climate, not accessible readily any other way.

* * *

Apart from the technical question of Austers (seen to be satisfied by Pioneer etc.) and internal communication, there are two other related inland questions affecting missionaries which have been rather conspicuously, (perhaps painfully) avoided in recent years, and which are equally conspicuously, and painfully difficult to answer? To ignore them, however, is to invite—before very long, as the post-war generation of "the new regime" grows up and takes over leadership—trouble. Some of it is avoidable trouble. The accident of Long Arip raises these questions afresh, and acutely...

I happen to have responsibilities (as Government Ethnologist) with regard to reporting facts about native peoples. But here I write personally, only. Still I may make no bold as to ask two questions which ask for fully thought-out and implemented answers, from high levels to low:

1. To what degree is it desirable that the whole social and customary structure of native life be rapidly altered (irrespective of administrative policy) by individual missionaries or groups, each claiming the authority of the Lord and each (unavoidably) surely influencing their "converts"—far outside the ordinary bounds of religious life in the sense accepted among literate people with multiple communications?
2. To what extent is it desirable that different over should compete (in the name of the Lord) over the same ground, among peoples suddenly emerging from age-old traditions into "Christianity" and modern technology?

These are tremendous issues. It would be impossible for one person to try and answer all at once or here and now. One angle is at once worth stressing, though, in considering such questions.

To a remarkable extent, leadership over a large part of Sarawak—in matters outside branches of the law, etc.—has lately passed out of the hands of government (which had sole control for a century or so) into the hands of the missions. Government still has much influence, of course. And after a very dim post-war period, it is regaining lost-ground with the extension of medical and educational services, (at first left largely to the missions) inland. Agriculture, however, has lagged far behind in this respect. And Information Services virtually have no influence in the interior. On innumerable every day questions the missionaries and their satellites now devoting themselves to the interior, are often the final arbiters. In the case of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions, for instance, no government officer of Senior Service or senior Junior rank is resident, while there are at least a dozen highly educated European missionaries resident in or regularly quartering in the area, plus scores of their Asian associates. Government Officers of experience are available only occasionally, usually in a hurry.

Before 1945, no such wide influence existed—e.g. the B.E.M. worked for many years in the Limbang with only, it is said, one convert. In the Sarawak, Iliquo, Bakiak or Bako, Christianity did not count. Clearly, Government cannot and should not "do everything". But the pendulum has swung for the other way. This is well shown in the increasing number of unsympathetic references to missions in D.O. reports. Such statements are understandable enough; but also and clearly highly undesirable.

A major factor is the large body of "native catechists" "deacons" and such like, who have been trained usually from initial illiteracy, often quickly, in mission centres and sent back to run their own "native churches". The power some of these men wield is almost incredible—e.g. Rajah Omeng, top co-operator in 1945, is more powerful than any Pengulu among the Temon Muruts. Pengulu Ating Majang may tell his slave, which he seldom does! report a man to the D.O. or fire him five bullets. Rajah Omeng can (and does) report him to the Almighty and sentence him (temporarily anyway) to damnation. Inevitably, these develop clashes between traditional (roughly equalling governmental) leadership—and church leadership. Bewildering results have appeared among Muruts and Kelabits, Badangs, Kenangs, Kayans, Kajangs—and latterly Iban also. Inevitably analyses, sometimes financial young power seized the bounds of common-sense and courtesy in assaulting the "old regime" based on old native mind with Brooke adage and attempting to obliterate all that seems to them to be unsuitable in it (e.g. traditional values, dress, songs, tribal history) regardless of consequences. Where there is a class structure of society, the new ideology has often most attracted the "lower classes", who have found an opportunity thus to undermine the authority of the old aristocracy. In some ways this may be an excellent thing. It all depends who and what is overthrown and how. Divided societies easily result; and one line (these heads straight to "communism"—which is not, personally, the object of these Christian organisers?)

There is, of course, another side to all this. It is the one that has been actively put and answered in practice by the missions, working almost as they wish and certainly with no outside control at all on what they teach their flocks to do and not to do.

Remember: up until 1949 the inland activities of all missions in Sarawak were severely limited. The Brookes would not permit proselytisation without strict controls and supervision. I spent six months in the interior in 1952 without meeting a missionary, and again in 1948. Now you could hardly go six days. In some rivers, not six hours.

During the war most of the resident missionaries were interned by the Japanese. It naturally took some time for them to get things going again after. But they returned to find no legal and few moral inhibitions left in the new fields now freely open to them. A sort of constitutional gold rush ensued. It has been one of the least edifying exhibitions imaginable. As late as 1948 Christianity was a negligible force in the great area (well over half of Sarawak) occupied by the above named peoples. Eight years later the area as a whole is "Christian". Only small, isolated "pockets of resistance" remain. In most countries, such a transition has taken centuries and is (even "on paper") often still very incomplete. In Sarawak, tactics and beliefs rooted in centuries of native development and experience have been swept aside in less than a tenth of a century.

So far, the reaction (the counterblast) to this dramatic dynamic has barely been felt. That is, also, to follow, I fear. For quite superficial analysis will show any objective observer that much of this change has been precipitate, based on only the vaguest understanding of what was involved. Moreover, it cannot be denied that in the haste to gain converts, whole long-house have sometimes been unwittingly misled as to the scope, power and purposes of the Christian sect implicated. Again, native teachers are largely to blame—though

the "blame" itself can hardly be put onto their inspired shoulders. Further, some missions are more to "blame" than others. But a praiseworthy position of blamelessness in this matter would largely be due to a minimum of activity. The more energetic the mission, in its sense of the word to root out "paganism", the more likely it is that it obscures before it underestimates, claims a new parish on the map before one could conceivably exist in the spirit.

It is here, around this "sense of urgency", that a particular trouble has arisen. Particular, that is, to Sarawak in this part of the world. Nothing of the kind has happened in Indonesian Borneo or Brunei. And to a much less extent in North Borneo. In Sarawak, however, interested persons have been treated to some astounding spectacles: on one vivid occasion in my experience, arriving at a longhouse to find it divided into four groups, all sitting on the verandah as "opponents", three conducting Christian services or discussions, the fourth a steady traditional drinking party ("pagai").

Tom Hazenroos

The Day of A Demum

Reprinted from B. Thomas' School Magazine, The Sphere.

A Demum's day begins usually at 5 a.m. when one is woken from one's slumber by a noise which can either be described as soft and soothing or harsh and horrible, according to the mood one wakes up in. The noise is made by the duty prefect banging the gong which is suspended outside the housemaster's flat, and as normally we don't like getting up that early in the morning the sound is to us harsh and horrible. The only consolation is the fact that it probably wakes up the housemaster as well, but it's not very much consolation because the sound is closely followed by the arrival of the duty prefect (and sometimes the senior prefect as well) and if we aren't out by then we are unconsciously tuffed out, whereas we cannot imagine either the D.P. or S.P. tuffing out the housemaster.

Having folded our blankets into quadrilaterals in which all four angles are right angles, the pillow is then placed carefully on top, the side with the most hyflexion to its credit being placed face downwards. For some reason we cannot discover, the H.M. does not seem to appreciate hyflexion on pillows, or blankets folded to the shape of a trapezium. We then descend to the depths for the morning ritual of bathing and tooth scrubbing. The former is not appreciated by all on a cold morning, but a few extraordinary Demums seem to enjoy it. These used to be a good excuse to get out of it by saying there was not enough water for all, and we preferred to be generous and sacrifice our share for the sake of those whose need was greater than ours. Unfortunately within the past few weeks the water tanks have been deepened and there is now a far more generous supply than formerly, so the excuse no longer holds water even if the tanks do.

At 6.30 a.m. another bang on the gong. This announces "Quiet Time" when everybody must keep quiet, and leave until 7 a.m. During this time on Tuesdays and Thursdays there is Mass in the Chapel by those boys who wish to attend, and usually between thirty and forty boys are present. Boys who do not attend Mass spend the time reading good literature in an effort to improve their English. Unfortunately efforts to get the "Eagle" and similar publications included in the list of good literature have not been crowned with success. 1.10 a.m. the gong sounds again. This time the sound has changed from harsh and horrible to soft and soothing because it announces breakfast; it also announces on occasions the senior prefect who appears with a bundle of clothing, but

does not appear in a good temper. We are informed in an icy voice that the clothes have come back from the laundry—the slight before but not yet been claimed, and will the owners very kindly collect their property. The reward for collecting is normally an hour's school chopping, but as the only alternative is to go to school in dirty clothes or short pants only, we collect—and we chop. Food court, we clean up—dining hall, games room, common room, locker rooms and dormitories—all have to be done every morning and these points are awarded for the domestic house.

The morning is interrupted by break, when everybody piles back for the sole purpose of filling their stomachs. We draw a hot drink from the kitchen and this is used to wash down bread, biscuits or anything else we can lay our hands on for effort to buy, depending on how long it is since last pocket money day. The sound of eating continues throughout the break and is only stopped when a loud bellows is heard from the upper regions. This, when translated, means that the housemaster has some letters for some lucky people and he is about to descend the stairs to hand them out. A milling throng crowds around whilst names are called out, half of whom go away muttering under their breath that nobody ever seems to write to them.

The soft soothing sound at 1.15 p.m. says that food is ready to allow says that if you are not there on time you will probably die another hour's exercise with an axe, so everybody grabs his plate and spoon and fork and rushes to the dining hall. When we are all standing behind our chairs, the housemaster says grace and then all sit down. When, however, we are very hungry we all sing grace together in Latin.

In what seems a very short time after food is finished we hear "That Nisser" again, only this time it is harsher and more hostile than ever before. It signals a most momentous event which takes place from Monday to Friday each and every week throughout the year (excepting holidays), viz., Manual Work. We hear ourselves from our beds and creep downstairs to the basketball court hoping the housemaster will take pity on our ailing limbs, he says something about coming down with one foot in the game and a nice bit of manual work will do us the world of good. So chainsaws, hammers, saws, planes, hand saws, plane blades, and other instruments of human are produced the storeman never seems to have any imagination and lose the store keys, and we get down to it. There is a saying that "variety is the spice of life" and in the boarding house we pride ourselves on the fact that we certainly get variety. No boy does the same thing two days running. In one week he will probably do all of these tasks: cut grass, scrub tables, act as Secretary Superintendent Grade 2, cut firewood, visit St. Mary's (false on the excuse of cutting firewood to bring back lawn; dig a hole to plant a tree and fill the hole with a mixture of earth, grass and manure, except in the case of Charlie Yong, who broke a water pipe he found in his hole and filled the hole with water instead (the housemaster had to explain that we did not intend to plant water filter, break stones for road making, help in the kitchen. (This latter seems the most popular.) The "Nisser" now soft and soothing, heralds the end of manual work at 3.30 p.m. and we go to the kitchen for drinks before getting down to the more serious business of the day, viz., sports which goes on until 6.00 p.m. 5.30 is supper time, and supper over, there is a short break before prep, which begins at 7.15. Prep, over at 8.30 p.m. there are evening prayers, either in the Chapel, when Communion is sung, or in the dining hall, when everybody stands and we sing one or two evening hymns as well. After prayers there is a short procession to the housemaster's rooms, usually connected with two purposes. The first is to try out a new scheme for getting pocket money before the next pocket money day, and the second is for the application of first aid.

Well, that is a day in the life of a Roman. It's a fairly full day from beginning to end, and there is

not much spare time, but we are a happy crowd, together. There are nearly a hundred and fifty of us, from all parts of Borneo, of diverse races, characteristics, and creeds. Because we live in close contact with each other we get to understand and appreciate other people's points of view, and a spirit of cooperation is fostered among us all. The Mosaic we have chosen is "Owe or Labourer" ("To pray and to work") and while the first part is lived up to by the Christian members of the Boarding House, the last part is lived up to by all.

JOSUPE SORRELL.

Kapit Regatta 1956

For the first time since the war, Kapit once again emerged into great activity and preparations were in full swing before the Regatta actually took place on Easter Sunday, 1st April, 1956.

Thousands of visitors, of all races, from various districts, streaming into Kapit by Chinese and Government launches, by outboards and ordinary motorboats or three days before the Regatta began. So great was the crowd in Kapit that every room in the Government Quarters, temporary bungalows, bachelors, bazaar shops and Klumping houses were fully occupied and many great sleep on the Kool-house.

Kapit Bazaar was beautifully decorated with flowers, leaves, small flags, lanterns and other paraphernalia. These added much to the beauty of the scenery in such a comparatively small town, while flags were also hanging outside every shop fluttering in the breeze. Even the side-show stalls and market were beautifully decorated and attracted a large crowd. The side-shows were run mostly by the Kapit Community for four nights and in addition to the usual entertainments, a stall for selling "Mile" was established by the Borneo Company.

Apart from that, the Kapit Sandiwara Party also staged a concert, with short comedy plays and several dancing and singing acts by the young girls accompanied by the music of the Kapit Pupus Penghuluwara Party, which lasted from 8.30 p.m. until 12.00 p.m. for three successive nights. The audiences were very much impressed by the fine show and many times applauded and were reduced to fits of laughter by the antics of the comic characters. There were also two persons who gave some comparing trials much to the delight and amusement of the crowd.

Two days before the Regatta there was a cock fight held from 8 o'clock in the morning up to late in the evening. A special cage was awarded to Tedong anak Barling for his best fighting cock. Needless to say, there were many people attending this most popular Dayak sport and the cock pit was packed to capacity.

On the 11th March at 4.00 p.m. the judging of the best decorated bazaar was carried out and it was found that the function received an equal number of points, so that a decision was eventually made by casting lots. The winner received a cup.

After that a Native dancing (Nganet) Competition, open to all, including male and female, was held on the stage in the bazaar. The winners were both Krayahs and each received a cup.

The Regatta started the following morning, the 1st April at 8.00 o'clock. Already all along the river-banks hundreds of people were waiting anxiously for the arrival of the boats. The amusement kept up a steady commentary, cheering and yelling at the top of his voice, sometimes into the microphone.

There was of course intense excitement followed by loud cheering at the sight of the racing boats, followed by the Travelling Dispensary and starter's boat. There were five races for paddlers with crews of 30, 12, 8 and 3 men.

At noon there was an interval of about two hours. The Regatta continued again at 1.30 p.m. The whole afternoon was taken up with races for motorboats and speedboats, events for 2½ h.p. down to ½ h.p. There were a good number of entries for these events and in some cases there was a second number of up to 20 entrants. It appears that the majority of the people prefer to run outboard or speedboat motors nowadays rather than public boats.

The final race with Penghulu and Europeans was a very interesting one and caused a great deal of laughter among the spectators. It was won by Mr. J. T. Wooten, the District Officer, Kuching and Pengarah Banjar.

During the races, the tide was very busy and there was always a good crowd at this section. It was most fortunate that the weather was very fine and cool especially under the shade of the big trees in front of the bazaar which gives a very fine view and a pleasant effect in Kapit's river frontage. The shops in Kapit bazaar especially coffee-shops and food-stalls did a roaring trade and undoubtedly made a large profit.

The races continued until almost quite dark and then Mrs. M. Wooten very kindly presented the prizes.

In addition to the Regatta, there was a games polo competition which attracted a large number of contestants. Lastly, in the evening a rig covered with grass was for loose in the middle of the bazaar parking which was later caught by a party of ten men.

On the third day, a Land Sports was held in the bazaar parking. The open events were very keenly contested and quite a number compared. There were 28 Events including a Tag-off-war for School-boys "A" which was finally won by Belaga School. At the first round when Belaga School met Hack Lian School the rope snapped and was divided into two. It took quite a time to get a replacement so the next event being a beer drinking race for officials only this was run and was won by Tamsinggang Jajah. At this next end of the competitors retired after finishing his beer, as soon as he came up to the finishing line. The highest score of points went to the Methodist School, Panto, Kapit who won the Challenge Cup. The last race was the most thrilling and that was Kuching Africa and both the 1st and 2nd prizes were won by the Sarawak Regular Field Force.

After the races, the prizes were kindly distributed to all the winners by Mrs. M. Wooten.

Not to be left out in the programme, there were also Basket Ball Matches between Sibu and Kapit Towns. The latter won the matches. Meanwhile, a Badminton Competition between Kuching and Song took place which was won by Song by 3 matches to 1, so they had to meet Kapit in the final. At this final Kapit easily won all the five matches both singles and doubles thus winning the Championship Cup.

It only remains now to thank the staff of the Government Information Service for giving an open air cinema show for three nights and operating the loud speaker arrangement during the day, as well as to a number of the staff of the Broadcasting Service for taking various recordings in Kapit.

Thanks are also due to the various members of the Regatta Committee for their co-operation and help in the organization and arrangements and also to all those who acted as Judges, umpires, starters, etc. The Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the local people and business houses who have also helped to make it a success by making cash donations and presenting silver cups.

LOWRANCE C. WILSON.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,

The Sarawak Gazette,

Kuching.

Dear Sir,

THE SARAWAK ANTHEM

I understand that in a recent number you printed a letter from Mr. M. S. Hulse, under the general heading "Rix Rac", enquiring about the Sarawak Anthem. In my capacity as secretary of the Sarawak Specialists' Society (dealing with philately) an occasion arose last year when it was felt appropriate to play the anthem, and it fell to me to obtain a copy of the score. This proved a most curious task, and ultimately I was reduced to calling upon a musical sister to transcribe the score from a set of gramophone records in which the anthem was recorded, rather incidentally, as background accompaniment. Just as the task was nearing completion, and of course all the music publishing houses had been searched without success, I learnt of the existence of a single copy of the original score. It was Mr. J. A. Smith who put me on the trail, and I found through the considerable kindness of H.H. the Tana Maia, that his daughter, Lady Halsey, owned this original score,—almost certainly an unique document—among her treasured Sarawak possessions.

This lady was kind to allow the score out of her possession, but made an exception in my case, and I was able to examine it and take photostatic copies of it. I have a set of full size photographs which is in my intention to present to the Sarawak Museum, for as far as I am aware there is no record of the anthem there. If any of your readers would like a set of the photos, comprising four sheets of words and music and the title page, I will be happy to supply them for the cost of the prints, either full size or on a reduced scale.

The score itself is distinctly weather-beaten and in parts has been attacked by insects, and has obviously spent some time in the trying climate of Sarawak. It was published by Chappell in 1872, no less than 84 years ago, and was composed by Gilda (Margherita, First Baroness of Sarawak, who was well known in her time as a musician). The Anthem is dedicated to Charles Brooke, her husband and the Second Rajah, and was written in memory of Sir James Brooke, the First Rajah. I have never heard of the name or expression "Rix Rac", and it is clear from the evidence in my possession that if it has any authenticity at all, which I regard as doubtful, it has no connection with the original manuscript or the composer's wishes.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN D. DANT

399, Lewisham High Street,
London, S. E. 13.

Excerpts From Reports of Administrative Officers for the First Quarter 1956

FIRST DIVISION

District Officers, Uluu Sarawak
(Mr. J. F. Drake-Bruckman).

Cost and Crime

Several cases have been brought to light recently of Indonesians who have entered Sarawak illegally and have been living for months, and even years, in deep villages. Most of them have been removed from the colony.

Their distilling of arrack continues and two more cases have been heard. Fines amounting to \$200/- were

imposed. One of the persons convicted was a woman with six children and no husband. She appeared to be completely unable to pay a fine and a petition of clemency was prepared. It is reputable that as the law stands the magistrate cannot impose a fine which he may consider to be within the capacity of the person to pay. The chief distribution of attack in this district seems to be mainly the occupation of poor people.

Health.

All dwelling houses in the upper Salong and the main road area were sprayed with disinfectant by W.H.O. during March. The operations were carried out very efficiently and there were no complaints either from the spraying parties or from members of the public. The spraying was also fortunate in not coming up against any jealousy, perhaps because the people now realise the great advantages of having their houses sprayed.

Although it is believed that all dwellings used for sleeping have been sprayed, it will not be so easy to ensure that government is informed when any new farming hut, etc., is constructed in the future, and if new buildings are not dealt with as soon as they are put into use the malaria control will not be 100% effective. There is also the possibility of re-infection from the numerous casual visitors, from the Indonesian side of the border, whose houses have not been sprayed.

Native Affairs.

Padi-harvesting in most areas is very late this year, owing to the delayed burning last year, and the hill-paddy harvest is likely to be poor. Prospects for teak-pulp harvests are believed to be fairly good, however, as there has been no serious flooding.

An old muzzle-loading gun was brought to the office for surrender recently with a large piece of wood lashed out of the butt. The owner said that whilst at a stag shot at an enormous wild bear he got so angry that he drew his putting and dashed at the gun!

Local Authority.

The last meeting was attended by the Divisional Education Officer, and general policy in regard to village primary schools was discussed. Two of the three heads of missions in the district attended. About 12 requests for new schools were considered and in most of these cases the missionaries claimed that the people concerned wanted their school to be under the control of a mission while the various members of the Authority maintained that they wanted it to be under the control of the Authority. In fact there is no doubt that the majority of natives prefer their schools to be run by the government, whether central or local.

The spread of Christianity would in the long run be quicker if the missions concentrated on providing the people with what they want rather than with what, through lack of understanding they do not want. Many pagans, especially the older people, find their own religion quite satisfying and do not want to change it. The government has realised that old customs cannot be swept away overnight and a promise was made in 1946 that the older laws would not be changed without the consent of the people. It is obvious from the absence of serious crime that the great majority of people in Sarawak do in fact live more or less in accordance with Christian principles and missionaries will have difficulty in furthering their own aims unless they show more tolerance of native customs.

Education.

A temporary building has been put up at Tarat for the Local Authority's central primary school. This, together with a building on loan from the Department of Agriculture, will provide four classrooms. The school will open in April with three teachers and about 100 pupils. The headmaster attended the Batu Lintang Training Centre for three weeks to gain some experience of modern methods. The site for permanent buildings has been cleared and examined and plans will be prepared soon.

The Chinese at 12nd Mile have approached government with a view to opening a Cheong Hwa Middle

school near their bazaar. Their aim is to provide a secondary education for Chinese children only and it is obvious, considering the number of children present in primary 6 classes, that a school with such limited scope would not be justified.

The new grant system seems to be working smoothly. In spite of the extra work involved visits of Supervisors to approve schools are being maintained. It is reported that some Chinese schools are now sufficiently well-off to be able to find money out of interest, but there is not yet any indication of a reduction of prices in the bazaar as a result of the traders no longer being "taxed" to support the school.

Chinese Affairs.

Census forms are being distributed to Headmen and Public Service Corps Leaders, and it is hoped that a fairly accurate census of Chinese will be available before the estimates for the mixed local authority to be started next year have to be prepared.

Trade.

Normal trade over the Indonesian border has continued during the quarter without incident.

Larger underground storage tanks are to be installed at Seran by the two petrol pump owners to deal with the increasing business.

Agriculture.

The District Officer and Veterinary Officer visited the Kg. Rano area, east of the Salong, with the Colonial officer adviser on cattle. He was not optimistic regarding the prospects of any large-scale scheme for raising cattle.

Great interest is still being shown in the planting of new rubber, and applications for subsidy, almost entirely from Chinese, have been received in moderate quantity. It seems likely that the supply of hardwood and colonial seedlings will not be sufficient for several months to come.

Public Works.

A D-4 bulldozer was successfully unloaded from a landing-craft, just below Seran, and was taken across country to work on the Telokang road. In spite of bad weather about two miles of road has been constructed in three months. Some machinery for the 12th Mile quarry has arrived and it is hoped to re-open this quarry soon. At the end of March work was started, with a grader and roller, on the Enanggi road formation, which was made by hand several years ago but has not been maintained. Preparations are being made for a bulldozer on the Samarahan Rubber Estate to construct the connecting link of about ½ mile between the estate and the end of the existing road.

Forests.

The Section Forest Officer and District Officer visited the site Krolap to consider the proposed Agency Commercial Forest, which would be the second extension to the existing Bala Riggins Protected Forest. After discussion with the people concerned it was decided to gazette this area as a Forest Reserve, and give the Dayaks rights to take produce for their own use.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, BAW

(Mr. D. W. Rostbom)

Crime.—There is no serious local crime to report but five Indonesian Malays in their twenties were sentenced to imprisonment for entry into the Colony without permits. They were transferred to Kuching to serve their sentences and whilst in prison it was learned they were wanted by the Indonesian police for armed robbery and murder. They were duly handed over to an escort of Indonesian and Baw Police who escorted them out of the Colony.

Health and Welfare.—The new Dispensary rapidly took shape early in the year and by the end of the quarter had received its last cost of print. At the

line of writing the dispensary had been officially opened. The standard of workmanship and finish is high and the Contractor and the Supervisors from P.W.D. are to be congratulated on a good job. Amendments to the plan were suggested in the course of construction and fortunately these have proved to have substantially improved the original design. The District Council Members and CHM Welfare Clinic has been given separate rooms and the whole building set in its own grounds gives a pleasing appearance.

Preliminary arrangements, not on an elaborate scale, were made to receive the W.H.O. and malaria teams in the District. At the time of writing the first reports from the six teams in the area are encouraging. Blood slides were dispatched to Kuching of blood samples taken from travellers from Indonesia. First reports show there is quite a high incidence of Malaria.

Native Affairs.—Tuba limestone and the right of extraction and sale came up again during the quarter. Chinese applicants for a licence to extract the stone for shipment to Kuching have been given a temporary licence to work Bukit Tubaung and the licence rights to extract stone from Gunung Sant have been reserved against the possibility that the Kampong Segohang people will join together to extract and prepare the stone for shipment to the lime kilns in Kuching. A co-operative form of organisation was contemplated in this Kampong to facilitate the extractions of stone and the Commissioner of Co-operative Development and the District Officer went to Segohang in February to this end. It appears that the profit per picul of stone extracted and made ready for loading at the river bank would be about 15 cents. It then remains to be seen whether this will be sufficient reward for the Segohang people (who have good rubber) to consume their energies in a new venture to produce a raw material that has a fluctuating demand. Developments in this field have been suspended by harvest operations but those interested have already bought a boat for the shipment of the stone.

A sum of \$500 to compensate the people of Kampong Sant for the loss of their old bad nest corns destroyed by blasting operations at Paka has been paid to the District Officer for use in developing the amenities of the Kampong. An access road to the Kampong has been constructed by voluntary Kampong labour and the road when finished will be surfaced to take motor vehicles. The money will be used partly to pay for surfacing the road and partly to replace a bamboo water supply with a piped system. Water will run to the bottom of the hill on which stands the Kampong; it is hoped that one day they may afford a pump and take the water to the top of the hill.

It was evident again during this quarter that the bad feeling between the Christian converts and the unconverted still remained in Kampong Senggang. There are now about 25 houses Christian out of a total of 162 houses in the Kampong. The quarrel originally based on incompatible beliefs has now, I think, become one of personalities and the intolerance that both sides have shown in the past has lessened, but the problem still remains. The minority of converted people on the impulse of freedom from the restraint of the old rules have flouted their new belief and naturally this has offended the elders and the others who wish to preserve their traditional rules. The squabble has been temporarily settled out of court but the only final solution to the problem apart from a split in the Kampong will be full conversion.

Chinese Affairs.—Chap Goh Meh was celebrated in traditional Bau style and there were a few thousand people in the bazaar during the festivities. Most Dayak Kampongs in the district regard the day as a holiday and the houses were thronged with visitors from the Kampongs and from Kuching who were not deterred by the ferry at Batu Kiang. The pyrotechnic display came from Paka this year.

Public Works.—The new concrete bridge at the end of Mainman Bazaar was completed in March and was opened to traffic immediately. It marks a distinct improvement over some of the other bridges which still remain to mar the main road. The bridge at the end of the road into Bas should be the next to be replaced. Bridge approaches have been improved by laying a tarmac mix to the planning.

Contabulary.—The police are assisting the District Council in training and organising a voluntary fire squad in each bazaar. At present the practice is held every week in Bas bazaar and when the two volunteers trained by Kuching fire brigade return from training, this practice will be extended to other bazzars to create the necessary enthusiasm for a volunteer fire service. Fire practice also serves as a health measure, bazaar drains are usually thoroughly flushed out.

Telecommunications.—The Telephone Trunk (Rides) came into force in Bas during the quarter and immediately protests were registered at the payment for the service. Bazaar rates are particularly high here. They have to pay some 75% more than they have hitherto and the Manager has requested for assistance from Government in paying for the line as he contends it is a useful Government link for business with Dayaks and others who live in the area. No doubt he is right.

Education.—The new Grants were paid out early in the quarter and markedly there was confusion as to correct payment (teachers salaries particularly) and in some cases the District of the particular school.

An immediate result of the new grants was to encourage more children than ever to attend school. In Samaritan and Bas the school received a large increase in enrolment after the holidays and in both cases temporary premises have been required for the increase.

In early February a meeting was held at the Chung Hui School Bas to discuss the possibility of opening a Chinese Middle school in the district. The meeting was not attended by one of the leading education enthusiasts in the district who declared there was no possibility of doing this at such an early stage and since then no more has been heard about this although there is the ambition to found such a school for the district.

Local Government.—It has been decided not to re-include the Malays living on the true left bank of the left hand branch from Bas District. A boundary change has not been recommended at this stage. They are accustomed (and this has been the case since 1909) to pay head tax in Kuching. They are, from January 1st 1956, to pay taxes in Bas. They look to Kuching and not to Bas being riverine peoples and the District Council will have to encourage them to come to Bas. The only disadvantage from the Bas point of view is that most of the taxpayers in these kampongs are two or three years in arrears in the payment of tax.

Ground.—The Bas Recreation Club re-opened on Saturday the 14th March. A small party was held to honour the occasion. The members numbered over 50 at that date and numbers have since increased. The Club is open to Government and Non Government employees alike and provides all the facilities of a good Recreation Club including a new floodlit badminton court. It is hoped to run a badminton team in the inter station tournaments in Kuching later this year. Association football it is hoped will be revived and Bas should be able to field a good team.

A "Big" Tuba fish was held at Batu Kiang on Sunday the 11th of March. The writer attended but despite the forty four piculs of tuba advertised as being used, he saw only one reasonable sized fish caught. The occasion was not for him enjoyable.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, LUNDA.

(Mr. M. McSparran)

Cases.

A Chinese from Indonesia who was found aboard the M.L. "Kun Kiu" with 4 lbs 7 oz of opium in his possession was sentenced to six months R. 1. by the District Court under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. The accused considered this unfair because, as he pointed out, he had brought the opium all the way from Indonesia to Kuching and when arrested was taking it back to Indonesia after having been unable to find a buyer in Sarawak. The same man was also convicted under the Immigration Ordinance and fined \$200.00. This was the second offence.

Health.

Miss Helen Goh arrived in January to take up her appointment as Local Authority midwife. M.L. "Merrand" in which she was travelling with H.E. the Governor and party was forced to turn back after encountering heavy seas off Sandakan and she finally reached Lunda escorted by the Divisional Engineer by outboard and walking along the beach. The old N.D.'s quarters was converted into a clinic and midwife's quarters and she was quick to settle down although she had never been to Lunda before. By the end of the quarter she had delivered nine babies successfully and more and more expectant mothers were coming to her for advice.

UNICEF powdered milk was issued to practically every kampung during the quarter. Some people have complained that it has given their children stomach trouble, but they have probably drunk more than was good for them. There have been reports of one or two abuses. The housewives of Kg. Meng have found it useful for making cakes, but on the whole the milk is appreciated and it reaches those for whom it is meant.

Native Affairs.

Most of the T.K.'s in this district still receive no pay. Further recommendations have been submitted and it is hoped that approval will shortly be forthcoming. Last year W.T.K. Mohamed of Rumbunjan decided to do no more work unless he was paid and he was virtually resigned. Arrangements were made to hold a new election in March, but his people voted that he should remain in office and he has agreed to continue. He is responsible for the Malay kampongs of Kambunjan, Noh, Sempa and Sempak which are difficult to get at from Lunda particularly during the floods.

The indigenous Dayak longhouse at Sebundi has had a poor harvest. Pipsa took a heavy toll of the poor hill crop. The swamp padi on Tanjung Bumban is better, but it can only be described as fair. It will soon be necessary to start leasing padi loans again. But their plight is not as serious as it might at first appear. With their infinite capacity for hard work they have found little difficulty in earning ready cash. Many have been employed by the Forestry Department clearing sections and on jungle surveys and many have found work clearing Chinese gardens. Others have cashed in on the smuggling trade. Financially they are far better off than the local Land Dayaks. Their industry is amazing. They moved from Lubok Antu without boats and during January and February when their other commitments had prevented a small shipyard spring up on the river bank in front of the long house where everybody seemed to be making a boat at once. They often yawn for their bills and clear rivers, but appreciate the many advantages of living here.

Some of the Sebundi girls have announced their intention to follow the local fashions and have their hair cut and waved. I have tried hard to dissuade them and hoped that they have changed their minds. They would look dreadful.

The Land Dayaks and Sebuyan are gradually waking up to the fact that they too can do something

to improve their lot. The Land Dayaks particularly have had so little attention paid to them in the past that they have come to accept their poverty as inevitable. But the "We are Land Dayaks and little better than monkeys" attitude is slowly being replaced by one of increased confidence in themselves and their future. This must be carefully fostered. They have plenty of intelligence, but lack the drive.

Chinese Affairs.

Chinese New Year was celebrated in customary fashion throughout the district. The bazaar was closed for business for a day and a half.

Colourful and very noisy processions were held in Lunda on Chap Goh Mieh. The bazaar was packed with Dayaks and Malays from outlying kampongs, some from as far afield as Kg. Puch, who came to see the fun. The bazaar did a roaring trade. There was much cracker throwing and it is remarkable that nobody was hurt.

Progress towards building the new Semantan Bazaar is being made at last. Timber is being collected and by the end of the quarter temporary shop-houses built on the new bazaar site were being removed. The shop-keepers are still worried about erosion of the river bank. Government offered to hold a new auction for lots further upriver which is further away from the river bank, but while the shop-keepers would have accepted a straight-forward transfer they were not prepared to run the risk of a rise in prices which might result from a new auction. They therefore remain responsible for the maintenance and repair of the river bank which is a condition of their title. During the floods the breakers come straight in at this bank and the wall will have to be built soon if further erosion is to be prevented. The road running between the river and the bazaar will disappear before the shop-keepers and there is a case for Government assistance towards at least a part of the cost of the sea wall. Little enough seems to have been done for Semantan in the past. There is little trade there at present and the shop-keepers are hard put to find the wherewithal to build new shop-houses. When the new shop-houses are built Semantan will be a native block bazaar. If, as appears likely, the Borneo Company is to open up on a large scale another sea door block may be justified.

Agriculture.

An agricultural survey party carried out a soil survey and took levels on Tanjung Bumban in February and March. Most of the land appears suitable for swamp farming and has been allocated to the semi-primitive Dayak longhouses at Sebundi. They will let the jungle and farm on this Tanjung this year. An Agricultural Field Assistant will live and farm with them as adviser. The Divisional Agricultural Officer will then put up a scheme for irrigation and drainage which it is hoped Government will finance.

Mikil, who was called to Lunda for his part in the Arundell murder, lives in the Sg. Puan within the area marked out for the late Pongshu Kana. In January he complained that the Sebundi Dayaks were about to move into his land. It appeared they had told Grave's Mate Myron and had buried a pregnant pig on some hill land outside their boundaries in order to enclose his land for the coming year's farming. This land has never been allocated to Mikil, but he is permitted to farm within its boundaries. It is an area of over 4,500 acres of hill and swamp, but the swamp is mostly deep peat and useless for farming. It is the hills in which the Sebundi people are interested. This year they will plant their hill padi in the Agricultural Reserve, but there is no reason why they should not be allocated some of the hill land in the future.

There is considerable scope for agricultural development in this district and it is fast becoming a centre of some urgency. The Sebundi Land Dayaks living on the road between Semantan and Lunda are now very short of good hill farming land which it is estimated cannot continue to produce padi for more than three

or four more years. Kg. Paon are already burning swamp successfully and more lampungs will have to do so in the next few years. Drainage will be a problem in some cases. A lot of swamp is already under cultivation, but much of it is not farmed as efficiently as it should be.

The Jagoi Lank Dayak kampung of Selampit complain that their swamp land is liable to flooding for prolonged periods during the heaviest and have requested permission to fell most virgin jungle. This kampung of 60 houses was moved down-river from Munglur in 1939 for the express purpose of farming this swamp and it is rather surprising to be told it is so unsuitable for farming. Investigations will be made during the coming lands. Meanwhile they will be given permission to fell a limited area of virgin hill jungle.

Of the 20,000 clove seeds planted in September last year only 8,500 still survive. These will go nowhere save meeting the demand which will be made once recent applications for rubber land have been surveyed and permits issued. Apparently no more seeds are available from Government sources for extending the Lundu nursery so that it is clear whether sufficient fuel-wood will be available within the next twelve to eighteen months for getting if ordinary seedling stumps are planted now.

Forests.

The Section Forest Officer together with Mr. T. W. G. Dumas of the F.A.O. spent several weeks in the Kandafor area and in the Sempadi Forest Reserve. They report a likely area of swamp for Dayak migration up-river of Kg. Prian within the Sempadi Reserve. The forest is poor.

Trade and Customs.

Imports from Indonesia continued during the last quarter. Customs duties of \$2,408 were collected almost entirely from coffee. The trade is not large, but it would be a sorry day for Lundu because if ever it was stopped completely. Empty beer bottles are the latest export from Lundu to Indonesia. Three cents each are paid for them in Lundu.

Prisons.

On the evening of the 21st February an illegal immigrant from Indonesia held on remand in the Lundu Police Station cells escaped after having been allowed out into the compound to have a bath. Patrols were sent out after him but he was never seen again.

Local Authority.

Government's detailed proposals for a grant and loan towards the cost of installing an electricity supply have not yet been forthcoming. It has been recommended that the water supply should be installed by the Central Government as a Development Plan scheme. The Local Authority would then receive the revenue and be responsible for maintenance.

A section of the Local Authority office has been converted into a Reading Room which was opened on the 9th January. Furniture, radio and papers are provided by the Information Office. It is well patronised.

The Local Authority pavement was hoisted in January for the first time. It consists of a double-headed dove bearing the letters L.D.L.A. on a blue ground. It is down on a yard below the Union Jack.

Education.

Following acceptance of the Government grant-in-aid and subsequent reduction in school fees there was a big increase in attendance figures at the Lundu Chung Hwa School. There are now 379 children on the roll as compared with 203 children at the end of 1955. The existing building was already overcrowded and it was found to be quite impossible to accommodate the additional pupils. The school committee tried to rent a shop-house now being used as a canteen, but decided that the rent was too high and that it would be cheaper in the long run to put a temporary wing building in the school grounds. This has since been done. The school

committee have raised funds for the new wing of four class-rooms and a library which is estimated to cost at least \$16,000 in the cheapest possible design. The Committee is unwilling to apply for a 50% Government grant but Government should then have a controlling interest in the school. Assessments to the contrary have as yet had no effect other than a request by Government assistance in building the library.

The Principal of the Lundu Chung Hwa School is delighted with his substantial increase in salary as a result of the Government Grant-in-aid. Since both he and his wife teach in school and a room is provided free of charge he is now very well off.

The Divisional Education Officer attended the Lundu District Local Authority meeting on the 16th March during which he advised the Local Authority on the opening of new schools and on education problems generally. He also inspected local schools. This appears to have been the first visit of a senior officer of the Education Department to this district during the last three years.

The Local Authority has adopted the pledge system to ensure attendance at Local Authority schools. It was felt that insistence on a cash deposit would only discourage parents from sending their children to school and instead parents will sign a guarantee to keep their children at school for four years failing which the parent shall forfeit \$10 to the Local Authority unless good reason can be shown for the child ceasing to attend school.

Posts and Telegraphs.

The Lundu telephone exchange was installed in March also. There is only one operator/mechanic in Lundu and he is on duty only during office hours. Subscribers would like a 24 hour service, but it is sometimes forgotten that the D.O. has to live and sleep immediately above the exchange and if he is to remain sane then either it continues as an office hour service only or the exchange is soundproofed. The alternative is a separate building for the telephone exchange.

I should have preferred to have the exchange sited in the police station, but objections were raised to this. The cash is kept in the police station at night and there is no guard on the office. There would be few calls after 7 p.m. and the operator would probably agree to work overtime during a part of the evening. There are only 16 telephones in Lundu and these are insufficient to justify a large enough P. & T. staff to operate a 24 hour service.

General.

On the night of the 10th January the M.V. "Klong Am" broke her moorings whilst lying at anchor off Telok Sembing. She was broken up by the surf and two men aboard were badly hurt. A call for help was sent along the beach to Lundu from where the Marine Department in Kuching was informed. By dawn on the 11th M.V. "Koryalang" was off Telok Sembing. She took the men aboard and landed them in Kuching for hospital treatment.

Acting District Officers, Lower Sarawak.
(Abang Haji Abdulrahim)

Native Affairs.

The Dayak long house at Enakia, Ulu Selangan, is in a ruinous condition. The dwellers are mostly living in temporary huts separated from each other. A talk was given them on this subject during the tour but their preoccupation with padi farms tends to delay erection of a long house at a new site. In like manner the kampung pangs at Simunjan and elsewhere are mostly neglected and the people may not be able to attend them until after the harvest.

The padi harvest is in progress. The crop as a whole is estimated around three-quarters of the previous year's that fetched a value of a million and a quarter from export of padi to Kuching when the guaranteed price was \$18.00 a picul.

Chinese Affairs.

The Chinese New Year was celebrated on February 12th. The Kuching Timber Store Sawmill at Sedili attended the festivities in friends and Government staff to a song and dancing party on the New Year's Day.

The owners of shophouses in the old bazsar and the house-like traders have been shown the plan of standard shophouses forwarded by the Honourable the Resident, for country bazsars and they are enthusiastic about the installation of water-borne sanitation to this new bazsar.

Agriculture.

The Dayaks in Ulu Sebangan seemed to appreciate the drainage system in their swamp padi land to avoid water-logging caused by flood or wet weather. They have experienced a good harvest as a result.

In like manner the Iragis and Malays of Ulu Jaiu spent much effort to get rid of the sea water flooding their coconut plantations by clearing the stream of Ulu Jaiu. Great damage was caused to the fruits here due to flooding during the heaviest season.

Public Works.

The work on the Sabau Road is in progress. The delay to complete the work was because certain parts of the road were planted with padi and to destroy same was thought unwise as the harvest is drawing near.

Education.

The Lower Sedili District Council has at last taken over the management of "Along Man" School, Simanggang, the only district school in the area of the Council. With the arrival of a new teacher, Chiepa Sitam bin Doran, the burden on Chiepa Khutan, who was for some months teaching 30 children single handed, is now over.

Mr. Kong Yu Siang of the Education Department paid regular visits to most of the local schools in the district.

Forest.

During "meet the people session" the Honourable the Resident, 1st Division, was confronted with requests for more communal forests for Dayaks and Malays. As a result the Section Forest Officer visited Simanggang on March 12th. It is agreed that further investigation should be made by the Administrative and Forest Departments so as to avoid clashing with those areas which have already been allocated for other suitable purposes.

SECOND DIVISION

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, SIMANGGANG.

(Mr. H. R. Harlow)

Crime.

On February 24 a serious fight took place in Sebangan bazsar between parties of Dayaks from Badas and Lintang. The quarrel arose from a dispute over land. Fighting broke out between a few persons on the left side of the bazsar, and within a few minutes, reinforcements had arrived for both parties. About 30 persons were said to have been involved. Luckily they were unarmed, but nevertheless they managed to cause considerable harm to each other with bricks and pieces of wood seized from the shops. The next morning thirteen persons were sentenced to two weeks imprisonment each for committing an affray. Had it not been for the initiative of police and other Government servants who separated the contestants, the charge might well have been a more serious one.

Prisons.

Partly owing to the above affray and partly to the imprisonment of a party of nine Indonesian Dayaks for illegal entry into the Colony, the Prison at one time had twenty-five occupants. During 1955, the

total number of prisoners was 153. With the aid of the Police who helped with guards, the four Prison Wardens coped very successfully with this unexpected influx.

Native Affairs.

Fourteen doors from Rumbiah Rich to the Sungai Sas have been selected to move to Saut in the middle of May. This, the first such Government sponsored project for the District, is very welcome. When, however, it is realised that there are nearly five hundred doors wanting to move through perhaps not all of these are actually in urgent need of new land and that no more from this District will be moved until 1957 at the earliest, it becomes evident that the problem is as yet only being superficially scratched.

A meeting of the Dayak Local Authority was held on February 20th. Considerable time was spent discussing new schools. An application for a school at Rumbiah was approved, but members felt it should not be grant-aided for three years, until it had proved itself. Iragahia Gasing's assembly having refused to contribute towards the Panta School, it was decided that Pengahia Ulu's and Pengahia Gasing's areas should have separate schools. Both pengahias promised to look for suitable sites.

A suggestion by the District Officer (Chairman) that a Road Code be imposed since the paths were in such bad condition did not find any favour with the Authority which held that fines for non-observance should be more strictly enforced.

Agriculture.

Wet padi planted this year is about the same acreage as last year. The floods did not cause quite as much damage as last year's and the harvest is expected to be slightly better. The unusually good harvest last year at Banting is likely to be repeated, and is said to be almost entirely due to the extensive use of rat poison.

Hill padi is thought to be about the same as last year, that is, not very good, with very variable yields, but not as bad as expected earlier on. The Undap in particular looks like having much better crops than were expected, while the Panta area is rather worse. The Ulu Strang is as bad as ever.

Not very much rubber has been tapped during the quarter, due to rain and farming. Pepper is yielding very badly, probably due to lack of moisture and maintenance. More and more Dayak pepper gardens are being abandoned, and Chinese say that some of their gardens have borne no fruit at all.

No rubber replanting schemes have yet been approved for subsidy in this district.

Forests.

The number of labourers employed by the thriving Lingga Sawmill still continues to increase. Other sawmills also seem to be steadily improving in efficiency. The new sawmill at Nanga Strang is now in course of construction and will be extracting timber from the area allotted to the Poodhow Settlers from the Third Division.

Chinese Affairs.

A matching contribution of \$6,000 has now been given from the King George VI Memorial Fund to the Chinese of Simanggang for the construction of recreational facilities for the town. These will include a basketball court, badminton court, children's swings and see-saws, and benches for collection.

Trade and Commerce.

Twelve new shophouses are now in course of construction at Simanggang, pointing to the fact that trade is still flourishing. Although one of the shops completed last year is still unoccupied, this is said to be due to the fact that the owner, an Englishman, is not prepared to let it at a realistic rent.

Rubber continues to come across the border from Indonesia, particularly through Ponto and Bera Lintang.

Labor.

Foreman Sarawak Rangers were recruited in February by a party from Malaya. There have been no labour disputes, and there does not appear to be any "unemployment". Although there is a constant demand to go to Senta for work, illegal Indonesian immigrants seem to find no difficulty in finding employment, though, of course the wages paid them are low.

Health.

Some improvements have been carried out in Lingga and Sebayan hospitals, following orders issued under the Local Authority Ordinance. It has been found impossible to construct the nightdial cemetery at Ponto since there is nobody willing to undertake the work. Shopkeepers are therefore having to have pit latrines dug. Straggling and Sebayan hospitals now have nightdial services paid for by Government.

There is still no travelling dispensary in the district. Arrangements have now been made for Sydney Senta, a practitioner of the Singapore Medical Department, to run a small dispensary at Bating. The Dayaks of Bating have collected money for building a small house there for use as a dispensary.

Public Works.

Work on the Airport continued with the No. 20 bulldozers. All clearing of areas from hill slopes has been completed. A steam-roller, two vibrating rollers, and several trucks arrived for work on the runway roads.

Acting District Officer, Baram, (Mr. A. M. Phillips)

Native Affairs.

Reports: Harvesting started at the end of the quarter and prospects for the crops on swampy land are very good.

The hill padi appears better than should have been expected from the very bad rains last autumn.

I took a party of seven Pongohs across country to Kapit at the end of March with the idea of letting them hear what the Kapit Pongohs thought of Mixed Local Authority. The journey was pleasant and, I think, profitable. We were also able to see the Kapit Rajahs, which was very successful.

Chinese Affairs.

The Chinese carried on their normal business as usual. There was the usual crop of boat building propositions for trading ventures, but this is a normal feature of business life and has been going on for years. It is gratifying to note that no boat builder has been lost in Sarawak for well over a year. Some people are inclined to think that the Boat Builder Syndicate are in collusion but if they are not offered some boat builder always suffers the usual fate of being "chopped up", and the victims are not always found.

Local Authority.

I think that all the Pongohs are prepared for a Mixed Local Authority to be initiated in 1957 and this, one hopes, will be brought about without too much opposition. One is prepared for a certain amount of grumbling, but then this is a feature of the District. I think that whatever is done somebody somewhere is going to voice some objection. But it is all part of the game.

Land and Survey.

Saribas Settlement surveys continued. There seemed to be a decrease in disputes during the quarter, but this was not really the season. The dispute season here is between burning and planting. There were applications from several Chinese from the Firm Division to plant up to 50 acres each of ricefields at Sungai Sepinggan (on the true left bank at the mouth of the Saribas). These applications are being investigated but if the land

is suitable for padi it would be unwise to grant it when so many half-occupied kariah plots are so short of padi land.

A Land and Survey's prices, "Miss Clever", was won by a signal in the middle of the race near Pong on the 2nd of March. A certain amount of gear was lost but no one was drowned, although, by all accounts, a certain amount of steadily salt water was consumed by the passengers.

Criminology.

The police station at Debak was closed in March. This was very unpopular with the locals as was the closing of the other substation police posts.

District Officer, Sarawak, (Mr. W. C. B. Wilson)

Crime.

There were no serious crimes during the quarter. The relations between Chinese boat builders and less Chinese land holders on the one hand and Debak village shops and co-operatives on the other have become strained. The man Ubi, a judgment debtor of Awan, who Klian, is alleged to have thrown five pounds of boat builder's rubber into the river and has been charged with the offence of mischief. Pongohs Kiriya has been warned to keep his Tam Rajahs in hand and the Police will watch the case carefully until confidence is restored.

Medical and Health.

Travelling Dispensary No. 4 received another boat and inland engine in February and the unit is now able to maintain a regular schedule.

The Local Authority agreed to purchase the old Sarawak Jail and to convert this building into a clinic for the Authority's medical service. ALA would also like to establish an anti-tuberculosis clinic in Sarawak but a suitable building is not at present available. The Authority may provide for this in their estimates.

Agriculture.

Harvesting of hill padi began at the end of March. The present condition of the crop is excellent but no damage and the poor harvest last year have reduced the crop which will be below average.

Wet padi is also being harvested in some places and the crop will probably be a good one. On the Layak, Nibong Pait, Lihima, farmers have nearly completed harvesting and have had a bit better crop than last year. The watergate on this scheme has been damaged by floods.

The scheme for subsidised replanting of small holders' aged rubber gardens is leading for complete local failure. Native small holders are not willing to uproot old rubber but would agree to do so after new subsidised gardens have been planted. This would be a complicated scheme requiring considerable supervision but would be worth trying if only in a small "pilot" area.

Native Affairs.

The Kabong Malays finally agreed to elect headmen for Kampong Ulu and Kampong Hilir. Since the introduction of the Pongoh Malay system into Kabong, the Tual Kampong have felt sure about the loss of their pay and no one would willingly hold office. On the 22nd February at a not very well attended meeting in Kabong Kaba Mahomed bin Yusop was elected Tual Kampong of Kampong Hilir and Abdullah bin Haji Ja Tual Kampong of Kampong Ulu. At the same meeting Ali bin Chai' Mat was elected Tual Imam of Kabong but his election was not confirmed because there were insufficient voters. It was unfortunate that 22nd February was a beautiful day for fishing and most of Kabong people were at sea.

Chinese Affairs.

The work of filling the site of the new Saratok bazaar which was approved by the Saratok Chinese Advisory Council in 1951 will be carried out in spite of shop-keepers' desire to postpone rebuilding the present temporary shops indefinitely. Eventually the shopowners will have to decide whether to build in the new bazaar or miss their chance to obtain lots there.

The title holders to lots in the extension to Kabong bazaar have asked for additional time to "complete" their new shops. They have not started work yet.

Robur bazaar is prosperous and the spare lots will be bought up when auctioned.

Local Authority.

The Kubah Malay Councillors have more or less faded out of the Local Authority. Were it not for the membership of a Government clerk, Haji Wasli, no Malay member would have attended a meeting for nine months. This is very bad because the Chinese and Nua Dayaks are most active and measures are liable to be passed limiting the Malays to taxes and activities about which they are not adequately informed. Curiously enough the Malays appear to be main beneficiaries of the Local Authority expenditure. The Night School and ragpicking classes and road and path maintenance is of especial benefit to the kampongs.

Public Works.

The Government wharf at Kabong was repaired during the quarter. Additional funds will be required for the Government landing stage at Saratok which is going away due to bad piling. The commercial wharf at Bantak is also collapsing for the same reason and will shortly be repaired by a Kuching contractor.

General.

A clouded leopard was shot at Kumpang on 26th March. The animal had taken to roosting poultry at Kampong Kumpang and was eventually ambushed under a house. It weighs about 50 pounds.

A party of Malays and Chinese from Kodak State arrived in Kabong in March to attempt to catch fish by an off shore *Pular* technique which appears to involve trapping fish between a long *pular* net and a rigid wire mesh barrier.

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, LUNDA ANSU/ESKARILI
(Mr. N. T. Anderson)

Crime.

Apart from the cases where criminal investigations resulted in prosecutions, there was one crime of note during the quarter—the theft of a shopman from an Iban house. It would appear that this was the work of a visiting Malak from U.S.I., and consequently this has confirmed the local people in their belief that the Malak are 'a bad lot'. At the very end of March it was rumored that the gas had been taken into custody by the authorities on the other side, and it is understood our Police will be contacting these authorities.

Before this theft, though, there were signs that Malak, and also U.S.I. Iban, were being absorbed by our people in their erosion of our immigration law. The position as to the Luan must by now be abundantly clear to every language between English and Lubok Anta and to every shopkeeper who has dealings with Indonesians, and it is hoped that if necessary, charges under *Stray* of the Ordinance will in future be preferred so as to teach the abettors as well as the actual perpetrators.

Police.

The area between English and Lubok Anta was thoroughly patrolled during the period. There was also a patrol of the border in January by a Field Force Platoon at the time of rumors of bandit activity on the other side. The activities of this patrol were devoted in perhaps appropriate mystery.

Agriculture.

At the very end of the period harvesting was in full swing. It appears likely that the general pattern of former years will repeat itself, with some houses (mainly, but by no means all, downriver) enjoying at least satisfactory crops, while others will only have pace to this result, depending on the 1955 harvest, the availability of farming land, and the degree to which they were prepared to exert themselves in the past season on land whose hilly nature demands a very real measure of exertion. It is encouraging at least that there is to date no talk of harvests being likely to be exceptionally bad for the area.

The quarter has been marked by a great interest in the planting of rubber (as the planters' own expenditure with high-yielding material, by the Chinese to eventually smooth over their losses on pepper, whose price and prospects give little ground for optimism, and by the Iban to lessen their dependence on a non-cash subsistence economy. It seems unlikely that there will be sufficient closed seeds to spare this District, but the chances of Government help in the buying of ordinary seedlings after 12-18 months' growth seems good in many cases among the gardeners. The prospects of the Iban, however, are more problematical, depending on such facts as the steepness of the land, the quality of the soil, and the shortage of hill padi farming land.

Education.

Some of the problems of the Lubok Anta Mixed Racial School, which have given rise to a disproportionately thick file on this one institution, were apparently solved during the quarter. By pulling down a partition wall in the school, and by pressing home to nearby headmen (chiefly through the very education-conscious Prophet's Friends) the advantages of schooling, the Committee were able at last to provide the 50% free attendance necessary to reduce the fees for this Government-aided school from the (to Iban) prohibitive \$3 to \$1 a month. This has been achieved without the need to provide boarding accommodation, though it seems that there would not be much difficulty in this being forthcoming on a voluntary basis in the event of the school's future expansion. There are now some 75 pupils at the school, about 50 of whom, with the new intake, are in Primary 1. There is still only one Iban girl attending.

The D.E.D. who visited the school has substituted for the previous rule of compulsory Chinese the ruling that Iban pupils can 'opt out' of learning Chinese. Ten now are still continuing their Mandarin studies. Perhaps a distinction could be made between the written and spoken language, and the Iban be especially encouraged, though not compelled, to learn the latter. Clearly in the past young minds must have been severely taxed, and a disorientation created in the minds of Iban. The big question now is that of the quality of the teachers.

Public Works.

The exact nature of wharfing facilities to be provided at English is as yet unsettled. The Divisional Engineer was on prospect of an economical wharf, and has suggested that Government should supply a derrick and stack and the dealers and shipping interests should supply and maintain the moor for the stack. This idea has not met with much favour from either type of businessman concerned, who are all in competition with each other. Unfortunately they have not suggested an alternative method which would be effective and at the same time not too costly.

Medical.

Supplies of drugs etc. are adequate, but there is an immense potential demand.

The writer on a tour of the English area found himself having to administer his liquid medicines with water and have the prescribed quota of pills per person to make his patients go round even among the apparently genuine cases.

The Englishman scavenging is in the hands of a new contractor, and though the 'man' to assist him turned out to be a boy, the work has been generally satisfactory. The Labok Asua shopkeepers have now come to an agreement whereby they pay a contractor for the scavenging of their houses, which should eventually be much more satisfactory than being themselves responsible (and in effect doing next to nothing unless constantly prodded). Early signs are though that their contractor is also new to the concept of Public Health.

Chinese Affairs

Chinese New Year was celebrated in its traditional manner, though perhaps on a slightly more subdued note than in certain other parts. A Lion Dance troupe from English performed both there and at Labok Asua.

The English gardeners were visited by Mr. Godhart, a Chinese as well as an LL.D. expert, and by the Asst. Registrar of Co-operative Societies. They found that in spite of the widespread indifference among the gardeners, the ground was not yet fertile for forming a Co-operative Society among them: this in large part due to the scattered nature of their homesteads and to their accessibility to the bazaar, whose traders at present wield much influence over them and would naturally oppose co-operation.

The English Chinese, besides wanting to plant rubber on their own land at present cultivated with pepper, also want to plant it and other crops such as vegetables on land now held by Dayaks. They also told Mr. Godhart they would like to see more Chinese settlement in the area! Where the Dayaks would go it is hard to see.

Trade and Bazaar

The Labok Asua border trade fell off slightly in the second half of the quarter with increased police activity on the Indonesian side and the slight fall in price of rubber. Even in March though rubber police activity was normally at its height, at least 50 percent more coming through a day. Mr. Lucas, the Acting Commissioner for Trade & Customs, visited the station and has recommended the posting of a Customs Officer here.

The Museum

Butterflies: at last a Guide.

Many people in Sarawak are (as this column knows by experience) interested in butterflies. Borneo (like with wild-life. Few lands are richer. But most of it is far from easy to see, as it lives either in dense jungle or island on the mountains, and otherwise hard of access. In the jungle, too, it requires great patience—and immunity to biting insects—to see and learn the ways of the myriad life therein.

Butterflies do offer a fairly comfortable and accessible outlet for those interested in the place they live in and in natural history generally. There are easy to see and often easy on the eye. Borneo has some of the most beautiful butterflies in the world, the best-known of which is Rajah Brooke's Birdwing—shown on our 1-cent stamp, but worth a lot more than that in commercial entomologists.

Enthusiasts have laboured—or played—under the handicap of having no good book which explains and illustrates the butterflies they may meet with. Now at long last, such a book is available. It is "The Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula", including Florida Borneo, by A. Steven Corbet and H. M. Pandolfi. It is excellent.

Unfortunately, it is very expensive, at £15.0 (542.00). Although well worth this, as it is a huge book, richly illustrated. But beyond most means in this depressed area. Mr. Godhart might like to buy, if he

will, two or three for the Landing Library. We have one, of course, available for on-the-spot reference, in the Museum's Reference Library.

It is well worth considering whether we cannot somehow locally produce a shortened, simplified version of this book, as it refers to Borneo, and with the consent of publishers and authors. The paucity of local literature is really frightful.

Open Space, Awaits Eyes.

Perhaps no other part of the world has less open space than Sarawak—not excluding the Congo, the Amazon, North Borneo and Greater London. Ever thought of that?

Here there are no great plains, no savannahs such as in the Raging Kajan of Indonesian Borneo or North Borneo's series of fine, open, stepped-down valleys from Rantau below Kuching, through Tambunan and Keningau to Tawau and the Padas. Almost all of Sarawak is thickly covered with mangrove, rapids and other swamps; or secondary jungle and scrub, or virgin forest, taming to the toughest penetrability of all in the mountain-top moss forest.

Over most of Sarawak you can seldom see a far horizon. For weeks your best view is the next bend in the river, or a ridge seen thinly through tall trees.

For most Sarawakians, in fact, visual space is not important. Partly because so many of them use a kind of instinctive eye, not introspective but giving a kaleidoscopic version of the world without turning it outside in, to a world within. This is a pretty tough subject to tackle here. What is meant can easily be seen by a westerner trained to look far. All of 'native art' shows it. And by art we don't mean conventional three dimensional pictures on canvas or frames. We mean their weaving, Kayan tattooing, Bornean carving, Kelabit headwork, Murut cowrie dresses, Kayan songs, the graffiti on long-house walls.

Look Up: & Ponder . . .

In Kuching there is a marvellous illustration of what the naturally Sarawak eye sees: this is on the group of panels set into the ceiling of the Supreme Court. (This volume will deal with these designs in extensive scope). The Supreme Court ceiling-mural forms, of course, far the most impressive feature of the place to those of us not automatically struck dumb with the wonder of notes, signs and crimes. Indeed, they constitute a unique exhibition of the Bornean vision, which any Museum or gallery in the world would adore to possess; and which one can only hope will never come to mind one able judges that the people who own this country have a very, very different way of looking at things from those who have written its new laws and judged its multiple wrong-doings lately.

Space and Colour

Most Europeans have been conditioned into an entirely different conception of space and colour. They see shapes and scenes in much more "naturalistic", rare, special terms; much more superficially—that is, in the strict sense, i.e. on the surface. It is only in recent years that a search for the inner patterns of the mind and the complicated inter-relationships of pattern and form have engaged the attention of "modernist" painters and poets who remain, to the majority, still unintelligible, phony, crazy or boring.

Above all, educated western Europeans (notably the British) like "plenty of room to get out into the country", "wide open spaces", etc. Thus the world-wide migrations of these guys. Thus the Green Belt to London, the National Trust and all the rest of it.

In Sarawak, we are just starting a National Park, at Bakia. But that is a different sort of idea altogether. And it has no open space in it, only miles of particularly dense, low jungle—for it is (and is intended to be) a piece of Sarawak preserved in nature against the future.

Maybe there is room for another Board of Trustees to do something about Kuching itself; and other growing towns, to a lesser degree. What has been happening in the capital seems to have passed almost unnoticed. Once upon a time there was a very reassuring large table-plan in Lands and Survey, showing all the streets, etc., and with little model buildings to show what was and what would be. This was the Kuching Town Plan. If it still exists at all, those models must be wondering sadly.

Could it not now be brought up-to-date and rationalised? How else can we know when to start; or what is far-sighting planning, what more immediate jolly or passionate pomposity?

Finish the Spirit: Builders in.

Ten years ago Kuching was pretty, if "old-fashioned". Change was, no doubt, necessary. But in the past few years much of the town's past charm has been sacrificed, sometimes quite unnecessarily. Buildings have been put up which should not have been allowed; and could easily have been improved in design and appearance. The new cathedral dominates and dominates the centre of the town, not only with its building but the huge, mid-important drives and steps which scar the whole vicinity—unnecessary and ostentatious.

In the last week it has suddenly jelled two lovely flowering trees.

No wonder the graceful white spires which used to grace the parking yard after years have finally quit. They know not the new godliness? There is no place here for a gentle bird with quiet eyes in its hand, among the imitation-marquees effects on the robust cinema; the imitation cinema effects on the new cathedral; the "industrial modernism" (July, 1950) of the Secretariat; the concrete intensity of Dec Kockalingham's clinic; and the faded colours of the peeped-up old Printing Office, now H.Q. of embryo local democracy (cheerful use of shapes and spaces) than the rest, thought).

The spires, too, have left Batu Lintang! A few years ago, the rice fields there, green into golden, were full of spires, sandpipers, plovers and stints. It was necessary, very necessary and urgent, to make a Justice Service housing estate on this open spire. But could anything conceivably be more unimaginative than the way it has been done? The final act of thoughtlessness is the plan to rail the roads (such as they are) on the estate by a mixture of Malay and English titles, water-bored, by north and south.

There are no trees left on the Batu Lintang estate. And in the past few years they have been mercilessly—and again often quite unnecessarily—disfigured about town. At the least suggestion that the branch of a tree within sight of a road-or vice versa—be cut, down comes the lot! Do we exaggerate? Possibly, a little. Not much though. There has been murder done to this once fair town the past few years.

The Miniature Garden (from Content).

Now we are re-assured (in the press) by the Chairman of the Municipal Board—whose heart actually is in the right place in this affair—that there is no substance to the rumour that any harm shall come to the "Miniature Garden" by the Pangkajene Bura. Good news, boys! But perhaps he should have said no further harm should come. And isn't Miniature Garden anyway straining things a bit? Aren't we thinking of what this was like ten years ago, when it was charming. Go have a look at it now. Here it is (notes on the spot, 15/5/56):

- (a) Central Kiosk: dirty and in decline. 3 benches (2 broken) unpainted.
- (b) Fountain: grass growing in bowl; derelict.
- (c) Pond: Water like partly dead; rubbish of all

sorts on top (e.g. cement bags). In process of making new "sea-wall" cement has been mined and scattered all round edge of lily pond.

(d) "Garden": Grass only; up to 3 ft. high.

(e) *Litter:* gravel, sand, scrap, iron, all over the small space without any apparent control of maintenance. Some of the ground is now semi-cemented. Much more is quite mindfully sterilised, so that it will need complete reconditioning to get even grass.

Mr. Fisher can hardly be unaware, also, that a large strip is being cut off the street side of the garden and made a gravel walk (from nowhere to nowhere). On the above visit we happened to meet a very responsible person also examining the garden. In the past fortnight some action (if doubtfully efficacious steps have been taken to cover up the worst of the mess.

Barial Grounds for Bornean Eyes.

Not to make too much of this! But it is by such slow creeping disregard for the various sorts of visual need that we eventually end up in ugliness—and through that, a kind of unhappiness in the spirit.

Of course, there is one wide open space in Kuching, well kept and where—alone in town—the grass is always neat. The Golf Course provides the far horizon of European Culture in Kuching.

But let the last word on this subject go with the great architect of the old Sarawak, the second Rajah. In his "Ten Years in Sarawak" (vol. II, p.272). Charles Brooke is describing one of his many punitive expeditions inland. He observes:

"We passed several burial grounds again today, which produced a pleasing diversity in the natural scenery".

Wise the Law: Sorry that April

Mr. Peter Mooney's letter in the last Gazette is worth musing, since he ignores the key words we then used about exporting orang-utans (locusts) brought from Indonesian Borneo through Sarawak. The phrase we used was "without offence".

It is obvious, even to a child in law like this column, that (as he says) an export permit is needed in Sarawak, just as is something to export in. The point we made (and re-reading, it still seems clear)—can be restated very simply thus:

(i) To take a man in Sarawak is an offence.

(ii) BUT to possess one dumped on you from far allegedly from Indonesian Borneo is not an offence; usually anyway. Government permits it.

Therefore, a man can be exported from Sarawak "without offence" provided, of course, that an export licence is granted (and that it is put on a ship or plane, taken off the other end, etc). It is difficult to refuse a licence under those circumstances.

It would be a pity if we were self-satisfied with a verbal formula, to avoid our clear responsibility to protect this helpless animal. Mr. Mooney's plea will not stand us in good stead in the eyes of the civilised world if we, in this way, put aside our share of care and in effect continue in the extinction of one of the four apes in the world; and the one which, by now, is probably the rarest. Dusk is, if for no other reason, that they claim our particular pity as man's cousin?

(Continued)

Kuching Rifle Club

APRIL, 1936.

After a good start, Club activities sank to a record low due to the evening rain at about 4.30 p.m. each club night during the latter part of the month. However, the medal competition was completed—Mr. R. U. Capper achieved 1st place raising his average from 91 to 93. Club members have commenced practising with the Constabulary on the 300 range for the Overseas Colonial Pistol Competition. Club averages now stand as follows:—

J. F. Storey	...	96
R. Sellers	...	96
T. G. Baird	...	94
Ong Thian Chuan	...	94
J. K. Hesse	...	94
J. Sim H. H.	...	94
R. U. Capper	...	93
Anthony Ng	...	92
M. Weidner	...	92
E. J. Skinner	...	89
Tan Teck Ann	...	89
F. Burke-Gaffney	...	88
Stephen Chua	...	85

Sibu Bowls

The April Cup provided a very close finish between Miss L. H. Wilson and Mr. R. W. Gambrell, both having a total score of 170. After a roll off between the two of them, Mr. Gambrell took the cup with the margin of a very few points.

BOWLING AVERAGES SIBU ISLAND CLUB, APRIL, 1936

Name	Average	Handicap
Luscombe, D. B.	192	- 18
Mullen, J. J.	191	- 1
Gambrell, R. W.	180	scratch
Shaw, G. A. T.	177	+ 4
Post, P. A. H.	157	+ 34
Post, Mrs. E.	153	+ 38
Wilson, Miss L.	152	+ 42
Luscombe, Mrs. M. J.	150	+ 45
Walker, D. C.	141	+ 58
Gambrell, Mrs. E.	120	+ 90

Recent Books

Additions to the Library during the month of May, 1936.

NON-FICTION

Author	Title
Adams, A. R. D. and Margrith, B. G.	<i>Tropical Medicine for Nurses</i> (1935)
Airy, Anna	<i>Making a start in Art</i> (1935)
Albury, Alfred George	<i>Sketches and Sketches</i> (1935)
Almon, Rowland Wright	<i>Painting's Illness: a critical approach to Painting</i> (1934)
Anders, Clement R.	<i>As it happened</i> (1934)
Barber, Noel	<i>Swampers in the Sun</i> (1935)
Barrett, Charles	<i>Wild Life of Australia and New Guinea</i> (1934)
Boulton, Francois	<i>The Natural History of Mammals isolated from the French by H. M. Barclay</i> (1935)
Brown, Eleanor Smith	<i>Scenes to Laugh at</i> (1934)
Bruckman, Percy Vernon	<i>Water-Colour: a study English Art</i> (1935)
Brooks, Jocelyns	<i>The Day at Chichenitoc: an excursion</i> (1935)
Burgess, Eric	<i>Frontier to Frontier: with a foreword by the Astronomer Royal</i> (1935)
Buller, Emma and Bradford, J. Selby	<i>The Story of Durdak</i> (1935)
Cahlon, Ritchie	<i>Men Against the Desert: illustrations by Raymond E. Kirby</i> (1935)
Christie, Roderick	<i>Corr of Durdak: with a foreword by Air Chief Marshal Sir William Elliot</i> (1935)
Chong, Eddy and Brindle, Fred	<i>Redemption</i> (1935)
Clark, Leonard	<i>The Marching Wind</i> (1935)
Clements, Julia	<i>First Steps With Flowers: flower arranging for beginners</i> (1935)
Collins, V. H.	<i>A Book of English Illness with Explanations</i> (1935)
Combs, W. G.	<i>The Painter's Workshop</i> (1934)
Cross, Earl Herbert	<i>Daughters of Changing Japan</i> (1935)
Crop, O. R.	<i>The Reticent Way: the Reticent photographer's companion 3rd ed.</i> (1935)
Cummings, Lewis V.	<i>I Was A Mouth-Mover</i> (1935)
Daniel, Hawthorne and Black, Francis	<i>The Incomparable Sea</i> (1935)
Disney, Walt	<i>Living Deans</i> (1934)
Dobby, Ernest Henry George	<i>Smile Geography For Malacca</i> (1935)
Dorothy, Jennifer	<i>Champion in Colour: the autobiography of Jennifer Dorothy</i> (1935)
Earl, Lawrence	<i>Yongie Decades: the story of H.M.S. Amerholt, April 30, 1906, to July 31, 1909, with a foreword by Commander J. S. Evans</i> (1935)
Eschard, William	<i>A History of China: translated from the German by E. W. Gieseler</i> (1935)
Eschard, Franz	<i>The Last World of the Amazon: translated from the German by Meyers David</i> (1935)
Faves, John Keith	<i>With The Sun On My Back 2nd ed.</i> (1934)
Fisher, Tom	<i>Instruction To Young Freshmen</i> (1935)

NON-FICTION

Author

Finney, Tom
Ford, Perry and Ford, Grace
Freppag, H.
Goddin, Henry
Gloss, Sophia Nafis
Goodwin, A.
Gouge, Cyril
Gouze, Peter
Griss, Donald Henry
Hamilton, Mark Chander Andersen

Henry, Mrs. Robert
Herbert, D. A.

Hill, Adrian Keith
Houston, Charles and Bates, Robert
Humphreys, Sir Thomas
Hyde, Douglas

Irvine, William

Krafty, Alison Kenneth
Lee Asher
Light, Horace Robert

Lobban, Sir A. C.

Low, Sir Francis
MacKenzie, Sir Compton
Mallott, Rita
Marlow, Wilfred
Marsman, Ethel
Morris, Christopher

Munsterberg, Hugo
Newman, Bernard
Nicolson, Sir Harold

Obsorn, Ellsworth Scott and others
Pape, Richard
Phillips, Owen Harold
Pike, Sir Frederick

Pla, Jose

Previdke, Sir Frederik Maurice

Rathackelstein, Sir Sarnepalli and others
Richardson, Leonard
Rosen, Newton Allan

Roy, Claude

Sackville-West, Edward and
Shore-Taylor, Desmond
Sanderson, Ivan Tasmann

Saill, Agnes
Saper, Elizabeth
Shaw, Fulton John Bishop
Shaw, Fulton John Bishop
Smoot, Matthew

Sparrow, Gerald
Storchum, Charles Tharley
Sunder, George Walter

Sutor, Charles

Sykes, John Henry Miller
Tinker, Hugh

Trow, C. G.
Tynan, Kenneth
Unstead, John Frederick

Title

Football Round The World (1955)
A Guide To Parliamentary Papers (1955)
The Common Way 2nd ed. (1955)
Gentle (1955)
The Flame Of The Forest (1955)
The French Revolution (1955)
Poetry Farming For A Living (1954)
The Second Minority (1955)
Rice 2nd ed. (1955)
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 Ornes, Anna Maria
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 Sharp, Doc
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 Steeking, Lance

Stern, Marguerite
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 Thompson, Laurence
 Tinsley, Frank
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