

Sarawak Gazette

PRICE

KUCHING, Tuesday, August 31st, 1954

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TUESDAY, AUGUST, 31st, 1954

Notes

Zanzibar Mail—At Green Road No. 1, Kuching, on the 15th July, 1954 in Francis Lanza, wife of Zanzibar Mkt. Native Officer, Island, a son—Sonsara.

His Excellency the Governor's Address to Council Negri Tuesday, 24th August, 1954

I last addressed this Council at the Budget Session in December when I reviewed the work of the Departments of Government during 1953. This morning I will try to give you a brief account of the major developments during 1954.

Outside Sarawak we are happy to see with the cease fire in Indo-China some slight easing of the tension between China and her non-Communist neighbours.

Our attitude towards China is unchanged—we do not like Communism and in so far as we wish to keep it as far from these shores as possible, but China is to all of us a great and cultured nation with a history of firm and friendly ties with Sarawak, and to many of us China is the place of our birth and our mother country. We can only, therefore, regret that in the interests of our general health we must regard her as being in quarantine for the time being.

China is at present a communist country. At least a Communist Government is in full and effective power. If anyone goes to China or lives in China he is expected

by the Government to accept to the communist way of life and support the Government. If he is found following or preaching another way of life or opposing the Government he receives very short shrift. We in Sarawak have for a hundred years pursued a different course which we find suits us well. We believe in a liberal democratic way of life and we do not intend to allow people to come here and tell us how the country should be run and how we should conduct ourselves and bring up our children. Nor are we anxious to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries. We are not concerned how people live in China, and we do not expect interference from them or from anyone else in our affairs. We had enough of that under the Japanese occupation. As I have said before, if there are people who think that they would be happier in another country we will not stop them from going there, but if they stay here we ask them to abide by the customs and traditions of Sarawak.

Although there has been no violence or outward signs of unrest in the last few months we are not complacent about the position or unconcerned about the future. There is no doubt that there is a form of Communism in our schools which is doing us a great deal of harm and is not diminishing. It shows itself in the serious trouble it is making in the company of the educated youth of this country. In 1953 an average of 21.3 boys and girls left each month for China. In the first months of 1954 this figure has increased to 45.5. It is, of course, ignorance, curiosity and sentiment which guide their young footsteps to China at the present time. We can but warn them that they are losing their freedom and their birthright and that they will not get the higher education which they seek. If they prove themselves the pliable material which the Communists seek, they will be directed to the form of education to which their masters consider them best suited. They will have no choice in the matter. We naturally regret that they should wish to leave this peaceful and prosperous country which needs their youth and energy, but their places can be filled easily enough from the thousands in Hong Kong who have seen the other side of the picture and long to experience the freedom and security which Sarawak can offer. It is a sad story and it is the duty of us all—parents, school teachers and Government—to do what we can to check this flow to China.

The Chinese School system has done a great deal of splendid work in bringing education to the Chinese youth of this country and it will I hope with added assistance from Government continue to play a vital part in our educational programme. It is sad to find that the evidence is growing that certain schools and certain teachers and even of influence in educational matters are actively and conscientiously engaged in gathering recruits for communism and encouraging young men and women to cut adults from their families and to leave this country or stay here to work in dark and stealthy duplicity against the interests of their own people and the country which has nourished them. As I have said previously the Government will continue to cut out the snakes wherever its cooperative police shows. If need be schools will have to be closed and teachers forbidden to practice their pro-

issues in areas where we find evidence that our youth is being corrupted by their evil teaching.

Government's proposals for the development of educational facilities are contained in the Development Plan which you are to consider at your meeting this morning. You will see that a sum of over \$5 million is earmarked for this purpose. But that figure by no means represents the total sum devoted to educational purposes. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of an expert from England who will review our present methods of giving financial assistance to educational institutions which are not the direct responsibility of the Central Government. This report will be asked to consider the present position and make recommendations for the distribution of the funds available. The financial provision for these grants to schools appears, of course, in Part I of the Estimates and not in the Development Plan. We are particularly anxious to raise the standard of teaching in the Chinese schools and this can only be done by giving a sense of security and commitment to the teaching profession. Both Management Committees and Government must work to this end. A great deal is being spent on new buildings and equipment, but we require also more and better qualified teachers, smaller classes and more supervision. We want good, strong confident headmasters who will stand up to, and frustrate, the mischievous designs of some of their subordinates.

Figures now available show that our school system continued to expand during the past year. At the end of 1953 there were 312 schools in the country compared with 468 at the end of the previous year. The total school population is now over 49,000 children representing an increase of about 65 per cent over the last six years.

In 1953, as in previous years, the increase in enrollment was very largely due to the number of Chinese children in school, which continued to rise amply both in the Chinese and Mission School systems. There was also a satisfactory increase in the number of Malay children in school, particularly in the secondary sections. It is, however, disappointing to record that the number of pupils from our other indigenous peoples showed only a very small increase over the previous year. This slow progress is due in part to lack of appreciation by parents of the need for education. Other serious obstacles to the spread of education in rural areas are the sparse distribution of the population, the difficulty of communications and, above all, the housing arrangements under which families are absent from their village for a large part of each year. In spite of these difficulties, the rural school for the indigenous peoples are producing each year an increasing number of promising pupils of the right age who have completed the Lower Primary course. In 1949 there were only 10 boys below the age of 15 from all the indigenous races who were able to pass the entrance examination into the academic classes at Batu Lintang School. Last year out of over 150 candidates more than 50 achieved a very creditable standard. Thirty of these, including Maltes, Sen Dayaks, Land Dayaks, Melanau, Kenyahs and Muruts were admitted to the Higher Primary classes at Batu Lintang, and 24 of the candidates, including 9 girls, were awarded local scholarships to enable them to continue their education in Higher Primary schools in their home areas.

In our Secondary Schools satisfactory progress was made during the last year. From the English-language school system, there were 424 entries for the Cambridge examinations held last December, compared with 248 entries in 1952 and 141 in 1951.

At the Batu Lintang Teacher Training Centre a new group of 54 students, including 20 from Brunai, has been admitted this year for the Grade IIIA course. A further 14 students have joined the course for the higher grade of certificate which is mainly for teachers in Mission and Chinese schools.

Vacation Courses for Chinese Teachers were held in Kuching and Sibu during the June-July vacation. As many as 158 teachers in Sibü and 119 in Kuching attended some part of these courses. Valuable contacts were made between the Department staff and the teachers.

An important step in the devolution of responsibility for primary education to Local Authorities and Municipalities was taken at the beginning of this year when the Kuching Municipal Council assumed responsibility for primary schools within the town area. These included 4 District Schools, 5 Mission Schools, 4 Chinese and 3 Private Schools, with a total enrolment of over 8,000 pupils.

In my last address I mentioned briefly the Community Development projects at Maara Tasing in the Malaya coastal regions of the First Division and the Saa Dupak experiment at Budo in the headwaters of the Kris in the Second Division. I have visited both these places in the last few months and was greatly encouraged by what I saw. Both the Malay and Iban communities are showing that with strong leadership, new ideas and community discipline and effort the whole level of their existence can be raised, giving them greater purpose, greater prosperity and a fuller and healthier life. But the leadership and initiative has so far come from others and the communities themselves must find their own leaders if these experiments are to succeed and give lasting benefit.

I am sure it is unnecessary for me to remind anyone that Radio Sarawak has been on the air since the 7th of June. On the whole comment has been very favourable. It is difficult for any Broadcasting Service to please everybody and in this respect regular comment and criticism from listeners is of great help in financing programmes. It is indeed a compliment to the Staff of Radio Sarawak and some reward for their very hard work that the most insistent request is for an extension of broadcasting time and that is of course a question of larger staff, more funds, which the listeners must provide, and time.

I am sure that listeners will appreciate that their share of the programme presents great difficulties as there is unfortunately no recorded music and entertainment in Iban. Radio Sarawak has therefore the task of originating practically all its output in Iban and this is no easy matter.

Steady progress is being made to solve the many difficulties both technical and administrative which have to be faced in any new enterprise of this nature and I believe the public are well satisfied with the excellent work which has been made by this new Department of Government.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the field of Local Government. Since your last meeting three new inter-racial authorities have been established and approved at Landa, Lawas, and in the Kuching River. Existing authorities are making steady progress hampered in some cases by difficulties of finance in their primary education programmes. We hope our review of Government assistance to such programmes will resolve these difficulties.

A Provident Fund scheme for Local Government staff has recently been approved by the Governor-in-Council and will come into operation in 1955.

The plans prepared by the Municipality of Kuching to relieve the housing congestion are well advanced. It is hoped to build blocks of flats to house as many as 352 family units or approximately 2,000 people who are at present living in overcrowded and unhealthy conditions. The Municipal Council has received much assistance from the Singapore Improvement Trust in this matter.

The new Road Traffic Ordinance became effective on the 1st April, 1954 and on the same date certain scheduled passenger transport services were introduced in the First Division, the remainder commencing on the 1st May, 1954. The immediate benefits in and around Kuching were an easing of the traffic problem in the city, and a reduction in the accident rate.

The new Health Centre in Kuching is now in use and will greatly add to the medical facilities available in this town and will also relieve congestion in the General Hospital. In May of this year I opened the new Government hospital for T.B. patients at Mid. In fact, the hospital had been in full operation for some weeks and every bed was occupied. The patients seemed pleased with their new surroundings within sound and sight of the sea. The hospital is staffed by the Sarawak Districts Ltd. to whom we are most grateful for their invaluable help. Our 16 mobile dispensaries continue to do excellent work and this service has been strengthened by the appointment of a fully qualified European male nurse as supervisor.

A Sarawak girl returned in December from New Zealand where she had completed a two year course of training to be a dental nurse. She commenced duty with the Government and will attend to the dental health of school children.

The first Sarawak scholarship student to be fully qualified as a medical practitioner returned from Singapore in January, 1954 and took up duties as a Government Medical Officer in Sibau. Another Sarawak student who studied without a scholarship and qualified in medicine recently, was engaged in the same month by the Government as a temporary Lady Medical Officer, and is now working in Kuching.

The activities of the Department of Agriculture continue to be hampered, and development retarded, by the shortage of qualified officers. The Government and the Colonial Office are making every effort to fill these vital vacancies, but with little success. The Director and his hard working assistant are under great pressure and I advise their efforts to present a portrait of the development programme.

The padi harvest for the last two years has been excellent—well above the average both in yield and average. In spite of a fall in world prices the Government has decided not to reduce the price of \$18 per picul which is paid to farmers for their surplus padi. Although it is possible that Government may lose quite a considerable sum on this transaction, perhaps as much as \$200,000 in the year, we consider favourable that the price should be maintained during 1955. It would be the height of folly to do anything which would tend to increase uncertainty and lessen confidence in the minds of our farmers at the present time when, by the law of averages, we may expect less favourable weather conditions locally and when the political climate cannot hardly be described as "incurable" in the producing countries on which we still rely for one-third of our requirements. It is in fact essential that Sarawak should continue to increase its average under padi.

Although there has been a recent improvement in rubber prices they are still at a low level, and it is difficult for much of Sarawak's unutilized rubber to be worked profitably at these prices. There is only one permanent cure as far as Sarawak is concerned and that is by drastic lowering of the cost of production, and this can mainly be achieved by the wide use of high yielding material. Government now has arrangements well in hand at their Samarahan Estate for the production of large quantities of suitable planting material for distribution to rubber producers in Sarawak. You will have noticed that 1½ million dollars has been allocated in the Development Plan for such replanting schemes.

Sarawak has been fortunate in that although pepper prices have dropped somewhat they are still at a very profitable level. Our energetic pepper planters have certainly taken advantage of these favourable circumstances. Unfortunately there has as yet been little

reduction in the practice of clean weeding in pepper gardens, and the local pepper industry is still squandering the country's output on a vast scale. Government will endeavour to check the practice by educational methods whenever possible, and to assist the National Resources Board have published additional literature. However, if in particular cases such methods fail, then Government will not hesitate to use compulsion in this matter if of immense importance to the future welfare of Sarawak as a whole.

During 1953 exports of timber from Sarawak showed a 60 percent increase over the exports of previous year. 29 kinds of timber were sent to 14 different countries, but most of these markets are still at a very tentative stage and only the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Australia and various parts of Europe can as yet be regarded as regular customers of major importance. The United Kingdom alone bought more than half the timber cut for export, and during the early months of the present year Sarawak became the world's third largest supplier of sawn hardwoods to this market. Of the minor markets South Africa and Japan appear to be the most promising, although both require a very high quality standard.

It is not expected, however, that there will be a further large increase in timber exports during 1954, and there may even be a slight decline. The relaxation of softwood import controls in the United Kingdom, at the end of 1953, caused a good deal of uncertainty, and although it is evident that there is still a good demand for sawn Ramin of high quality, the demand for other timbers has disappeared almost entirely and even Ramin prices have been fluctuating unduly at a rather low level.

During the past few months the Forest Department has provided timber grading facilities, up to a limited standard, in the Bejing and at Bintulu. At the request of the Sarawak Government, an expert from Singapore has recently toured our principal centers of timber production, and will report on the possibility of establishing a full grading service.

The severe drought at the middle of 1953 was, as expected, followed by a profuse flowering of forest trees, and the hills and low crop survived the monsoon rain throughout the country. The first half of 1954 has, in fact, produced a record crop of nuts, and export of over 15,000 tons, is the largest ever recorded.

Good progress has been made by the Public Works Department in its building programme. I do not propose to give you a list of the buildings completed or nearly completed, but with more engineers in the field and less delay in obtaining materials, the programme is well up to date. The Batu Road is at last nearing completion and it is estimated that it will be open to traffic by the end of the year. The motor ferry for the river crossing at Batu Kintang has arrived and is working satisfactorily. Road work in the Third Division has been hampered by bad weather and lack of stone supplies, but now that the Selubaya Quarry is in operation and the powered barges and lighters have arrived, it is hoped that the second half of this year will show a considerable acceleration of the road programme in Sibau.

The water engineer has reported that the existing gravity sources supplying Kuching have now been developed to their economic limit. No appreciable increase in supply can therefore be expected from these sources during dry spells. Work has started on the preparation of the site for the Batu Kintang waterworks, and major construction will start this month.

Investigations are proceeding on a water supply scheme for Serikei and Bintatang. Various possibilities are under consideration and trial tests will be carried in the vicinity of the townships to determine whether bore well supplies are a practicable proposition.

The North Borneo feeder service operated by Malacca Airways has been extended this month to include stops at Anauki near Kudat Belait and Lutang near Mid. A further extension to include Brunai

Term will be made next month. As I informed you in my Budget Session address, it is hoped to extend this feeder service to Sibu, if not to Kuching. Work has already been started at Bunka, and it is hoped that an airstrip can be established there early in 1955. New terminal buildings at Sibu were completed in February.

The meteorological service which until the beginning of this year was a Colonial Development and Welfare project has now been taken on to Part I of the Estimates and is under the direct control of the Department of Civil Aviation.

The Geological Survey Department has been strengthened by two well-qualified geologists and the recruitment from London of a specialist in the geological interpretation of air photographs. This has allowed the Department to undertake a more ambitious programme than in the past, and a great deal of new ground has been covered.

Parasailing in of food and field equipment to jungle expeditions by the R.A.F., together with reconnaissance flights, has enabled excellent progress to be made with exploration and geological mapping. Work is in progress in the little known, scantily populated, jungle and mountainous area of the interior drained by the headwaters of the Rajang and some of the Baras tributaries. In the course of this work, geologists made the first ascent of the 8,800-foot high Hase Mountains, crossed the upper Kejang basin and watershed to the Baras River, and climbed to the top of a tableland in the Uluu Apas area. This 3,000-foot high tableland was partly explored; it forms part of a 280 square mile plateau of volcanic rocks in the Uluu Apas area. In the upper Rajang basin, the work shows a coal-bearing formation to extend across the area, and volcanic rocks to build the Hase Mountains. In the Uluu Apas area geological exploration of a scientifically attractive, well-watered, gently undulating upland has been commenced. This is a start on scientific investigations which will take some years to complete; these, the first results, disprove previous ideas that poor sandstone formations build the interior; they do not prove the area rich, but they indicate it to have potentialities which has always been claimed for this area by the Government Ethnologists.

The year 1953 closed with the aggregate value of the Colony's external trade being \$818,640,565 as against \$821,509,270 for the year 1952, showing a reduction of \$1,868,635.

The Colony's trade balance for the year 1953 is made up as follows:—

Exports	\$424,728,257
Imports	794,912,558
Favourable trade balance	\$ 28,815,919

The favourable trade balance of \$28,815,919 includes import and export of crude and refined oil actually won in the State of Brunei and in Sarawak. If the figure is adjusted to exclude imports and exports of oil, the 1953 figure indicates that on merchandise account the Colony showed an adverse trade balance of \$5,287,940.

Copies of the accounts for 1953 and report by the Accountant-General have been distributed to you, and I will not comment on them now. During the first half of 1954 the revenue collected has kept to our estimate but, as you are aware, there has been a very considerable reduction in the quantity of rubber exported and had it not been for a bumper lippe nut crop we would have been down on our estimate for the first half of this year. The depressed prices of commodities period, and there is little present indication that these prices will materially increase. It is, however, expected that there should be a sufficient volume of trade during the remainder of the year to enable the Customs revenue estimate to be reached.

The revenue derived from other sources, including income tax, closely follows the rate at which it was estimated and it should therefore be possible to reach our target figure of \$154 million revenue for 1954. The 1953 Budget is at present under consideration by the Financial Secretary and it must be appreciated that with the present uncertain prices of pepper and rubber, our main source of export duty, it is unlikely that we can reach our 1954 revenue level as we cannot, of course, expect another windfall from lippe nuts. This in turn will affect our expenditure proposals and it may indeed mean that new sources of revenue must be sought by means of new or increased taxes.

In this connection I must mention Government Staff salaries. Recent increases in the rate of salaries paid by the Government of Singapore have inevitably had repercussions here and the whole question is now under review by Government and the Whitley Council. In certain sections of the Government Service some adjustment of salaries and allowances is necessary in order to assist the junior officer to meet the high cost of educating his family. Any increase in the level of emoluments will inevitably mean that expansion of Government Departments must be limited and indeed strictly confined to posts which are absolutely essential; it is hoped that improved organisation and increased efficiency will make possible decreases in the numbers employed in some branches of Government which will to some extent offset such increased expenditure as may be necessary.

One of your main duties at this meeting of Council Negri is to consider the new Development Plan which covers the years 1955—1960. This plan has been discussed at length and approved by the Development Board which is a fully representative body approved by this Council. The new Plan is a revision of the current Plan which covers the period 1951—1957 with an extension to the year 1960. You have rightly insisted in the past that development should be kept continually under review. I will leave it to the Financial Secretary to explain the details of the Plan, the principle object of which is of course to strengthen the economy of the country by improving our industries, our communications and the general well-being and productive capacity of our citizens. It is an ambitious programme and its cost is nearly 100 million dollars—a formidable figure. There is no doubt in my mind that the developments introduced in this Plan are essential to economic expansion. The great sums of money devoted to communications are an indispensable prelude to further progress. It is therefore necessary that this large sum of money shall be financed by the people of this country. It will require sacrifices and additional financial burdens; it will require determination, hardwork and faith in the future; it will require a high degree of co-operation and mutual confidence between the Government and the people, but the good citizens of Sarawak have not in the past shown themselves lacking in these qualities. I have every confidence and so have the Development Board that this Plan is well within our capacity and with the kindly help of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom I have no doubt of its success.

There is another important factor on which the success of all our plans depends. We must have peace to continue our orderly development and educate our people to govern themselves and take their rightful place in the Councils of South-East Asia. At present there is little that we can do to influence the march of events beyond these shores but within our own community we must do everything in our power to ensure that we are able to preserve our own way of life. This is why we continue to expand and modernise our Police Force. In January of this year the first platoon of the Field Force completed its training and is now posted to Kuala Belait where it is on loan to the Brunei Government and doing duty in the important oilfields area. The second platoon was fully-trained and equipped by June and is now at Miri. Three further platoons are under training at Bukit Ser. 36 Pro-

history Inspectors are undergoing a course of training in Malaya. The Special Branch has been expanded and strengthened by the transfer of two very experienced officers from Hong Kong. We do not need at present a very large force of police but we must see that it is well-led and well-equipped and trained. It is not always appreciated how greatly the responsibilities of the Constabulary have grown since the war. Local crime, I am glad to say, is small but there is the enemy within the gates who requires constant vigilance, ingenuity and resolution. A more finely tempered material is required in the Police Force today and I am satisfied that we are getting the best available and that it is being well-trained.

The Sarawak Rangers continue to earn high praise in Malaya where 265 of them are serving with Army Units. By the terms of their agreement the Rangers are entitled to 30 days leave after completion of a year's service and all serving Rangers have received this leave during the course of the year. Not a single Ranger has deserted or been late without permission in returning from leave.

The General Officer Commanding Malaya, Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Stockwell, paid a visit to Sarawak during February. He visited Kapit and travelled up the Rajah and Mervin Rivers visiting many of the homes of teachers in Malaya. His visit was greatly appreciated by the local people.

A Military Medal has been awarded to Private Sengas anak Jundi. It can be proudly recorded that in the official citation his conduct was described "as an inspiration to the British troops who were engaged in the action."

Since I last addressed you one of our men has died of wounds received in action.

Finally let me say a word or two on the legislative programme of this session which is a light one, consisting mainly of four amending Ordinances. So far this year the Council has enacted seven Ordinances, of which the Land (Control of Sub-division) Ordinance and the Water Supply Ordinance have been the most important.

The years 1952 and 1953 saw a great deal of important new legislation enacted by your Council, and it has been felt that some brief respite, during which the administration and the country could digest the many new statutes enacted during those years, was necessary if the new laws were to be properly understood and applied.

At the next session of Council I hope it will be possible for you to consider the final proposals for constitutional reform. You will remember that when I last addressed you we had just issued pamphlets in four languages on the subject and I asked that they should be widely read and discussed. As a result of public reaction to these proposals three changes have been made and have been accepted by Government and Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies. They are: (1) that Council Negri should have an unofficial majority and not an official majority as originally proposed; (2) that the representation of the First, Third and Fourth Divisions should be increased; (3) that the residential qualifications for membership of the Council Negri or the Supreme Council should be amended. It is now agreed that no unofficial member is eligible for selection by Divisional or Town Councils unless he has been resident in Sarawak for seven years out of the previous ten years.

A new series of pamphlets have been issued explaining these changes and I hope that they will be fully discussed in District and Divisional Councils.

It is now proposed to set in hand the changes required in the Laws of Sarawak to create the new Constitution.

Thank you Mr. President and Members of Council Negri for your attention. May God guide your deliberations.

Notes and Comments

It will be a long time before the visit to Kuching this month of a delegation from the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is forgotten. There were five delegates, all Members of the House of Commons: the Rt. Hon. Ralph Aspinall, P.C. (Blackburn West—Conservative), Mr. Reginald Sorensen (Layton—Labour), Sir Robert Boothby, K.B.E. (Aberdeen East—Conservative), Alderman Percy Morris (Swansea West—Labour) and Sir Richard Robinson, Kt. (Blackpool—Conservative); and they stayed in Kuching, as the guests of His Excellency the Governor and of senior officers of the Government, from Sunday 22nd August until the morning of Wednesday the 25th, when two of them, Sir Richard Robinson and Mr. Sorensen, left for Mori and the other three for Sibu and the Rajang. In Kuching the delegates held a meeting with the Sarawak Branch of the Parliamentary Association, attended the opening session of the Council Negri Meeting on August 24th; visited Baig Liking Training Centre, the Sarawak Museum and the Berry's Home, and made unofficial tours of the laws. But what, we are sure, will remain longest in the minds of most people, and not in Kuching alone, is the brilliant press conference arranged by Kapitan Sarawak on the evening of Tuesday, August 24th. This was in our view a regards public technique, the quality of the questions (put by Dennis Lam for the Sarawak press and by Geoffrey Kerr for the press of Borneo) and the content of the answers, of a standard which would do credit to the BBC itself. The contrast between the visitors' voices on this occasion were as marked as the contrasts in the enquiries they made during their tour and the fundamental interests their enquiries revealed; but all five were united in their friendliness, their energy, and their penetrating curiosity. It is most stimulating, except to the questioner, to receive from visitors questions upon questions to which you don't but should know the answers. We hope to print a fuller account of the visit and particularly of the press conference next month.

Sarawak's debt to the World Health Organisation and to Dr. Zakaria and his helpers for their devoted and very successful work in malaria control in the Fourth Division is now well-known. It can never be too well-known nor too highly appreciated, and our readers, especially our co-Nigerians, will be interested to learn that a similar project has just been launched in the Gwanda District of Northern Nigeria. This region has been chosen because of the large number of mosquitoes there, and the great help and co-operation already given to the Medical Department by the local native administration in the fight against malaria. Spraying squads will move from village to village in vehicles specially made and equipped to apply the insecticide, of which three, DDT, BHC, and Dieldrin, will be used in the first year to determine which is the most suitable and the easiest to apply. Malaria kills 50,000 infants and children every year in Nigeria, and the purpose of this new project is to start a programme which can lead to the ultimate elimination of the disease. In its first three years the Gwanda scheme will cost £75,000 (Sterling 1000,000) half of which is being contributed by the Northern Region Government of Nigeria. The United Nations Children's Fund has given substantial help and WHO and the Colonial Insecticides Research Committee are providing specialists.

We are much interested to read the latest report on the Child Welfare Advice Clinic of the Mohak Mixed Local Authority, showing the progress made in the two months up to 15th August last. In this period 264 enquiries attended the Clinic for advice—assistance of those who attended only to receive supplies of milk. There have been 71 new members of the Clinic in the two months, and these new members are chiefly Mala-

ness. 89 numbers were advised to seek medical treatment; and 458 lbs of milk were issued. Mrs. Mickle, who makes the report, adds that since the Tuesday morning clinic was opened, many ap-river damp-overs have taken advantage of its services, and people from these areas regularly for advice and milk. This is admirable work: may it spread wider and wider.

The other day, dreaming on things to come and deal, for a moment, to the multifarious meaning of the flies across the road, we sat in our favourite coffee shop in Gambier Road. The shop was full, as usual, and the papers of faces was as varied as usual, tough and gentle, wrinkled and smooth, and as fascinating to the Western eye. Near us sat four Chinese wheat labourers with their scarlet scarves. We had seen them there more than once before, and they had smiled. This time too they smiled, and spoke, and looked our way. In a minute one of them got up, went to the counter, and then came to our table and, with perfect courtesy but no trace of servility, gave us a large sweet water biscuit, wrapped in cellophane. He went back to his table smiling. All we could say in our surprise was thank you, in Malay and in English. It was a trifle, throwdown in the wind, but there it was, and in it, we felt, something of the traditional and still vivid spirit of Sarawak. Nothing has ever come our way more worth serving and receiving than this.

When N.S.K. asked last month, through this column, for information about Sarawak stamps during the Japanese occupation, he really meant it; but no word of reply to his enquiry has come. If anybody can supply any such information, be it for that will be doing both Sarawak and N.S.K. a valuable and much appreciated service.

Comings and Goings

Arrivals, this month are in the accident. Mr. A. F. R. Griffin, Mr. K. E. H. Kay, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Nookes and their daughter, Mr. & Mrs. John Woods, Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Hince and their family, all returned from leave. Masters M. R. B. Anderson, M. L. Snel, and M. J. Wexler joined their parents.

Officers coming to Sarawak for the first time were Mr. G. G. Watson, Education Officer, accompanied by Mrs. Watson, Mr. G. E. Miller, Controller of Posts and Telegraphs, with Mrs. Miller and their family; and Mr. E. S. Malcolms, on transfer from Tuaran and appointment as Commissioner, Co-operative Development, in succession to Lionel Nookes, who with his family has returned for a short time—too short for their friends—presumably to initiate his successor into the beneficial mysteries of Co-operatives in Sarawak.

Those have gone on home leave Miss F. M. Gray, Major at Brunei General Hospital, Mr. J. G. Gilbert, British Resident, Brunei, Mr. Graham Lloyd Thomas, District Officer, Iba, with Mrs. Lloyd Thomas; Mr. Colin Baker of the Sarawak Constabulary, Mr. R. H. Logan of the Lands and Survey Department, and Mr. J. A. B. Anderson of the Forestry Department.

Each month our comment is the same: a warm welcome for those who return and those who come for the first time; our best wishes to those who go. This is not just formal editorial comment. The measure of feeling behind the words used is the nature of things vary with the degree of personal acquaintance and friendship, but even editors have hearts, and come and go themselves, and know what strangeness in a new land can be.

Couldn't Help Wondering

Driving down the Batu Kiang Road I couldn't help wondering when they would start to dig it up for water-pipes.

Holidaying at Sarabong I couldn't help wondering why there was electric wiring without any electricity and water-borne sanitation without any water.

Reading the Gazette I couldn't help wondering if any prizes were offered for "Couldn't help wondering" bits.

[No prizes; but contributions welcomed—Ed.]

The Education Department

Education, to most people, means schools for boys and girls. The work of the Education Department is certainly concerned very largely with these schools.

Schools in Sarawak are managed by several quite different groups of people. Numbers of our Primary Schools are now run by Local Authorities, including the Kuching Municipal Council. In areas where Local Authorities have not yet been formed, the local people have opened Private Schools run by village committees. Then, as you all know, Christian Missions have established schools in many parts of the country, including small schools in rural districts as well as the large and well-known schools in our main towns. Then there are Chinese Schools, more than 200 of them, run by committees elected by the Chinese communities. Finally there is quite a small group of schools, now known as District Schools, for which the Education Department is directly responsible.

What does the Department do for all these kinds of school?

Well, first of all, the Department is responsible to Government for seeing that the managements keep the laws and regulations which have been made from time to time about schools. For example there are laws or regulations about the size of classrooms, to ensure that children are not crowded together too closely; about the requisites of schools and the qualifications of teachers; and provisions which aim at keeping politics out of our schools. There is also an old regulation—no doubt you will agree with it—which forbids opium-smoking in classrooms.

But you must not imagine that our inspectors spend their time measuring the area of classrooms or searching for signs of opium-smoking. Seeing that the law is kept is only a very small part of the work of officers of the Education Department. Most of their time is spent in giving advice and other kinds of help to school managements and to teachers.

For example, at this time of the year, Local Authorities are preparing their Estimates for 1955. How much money should they set aside for the purchase of equipment for their schools? It would be unreasonable to expect members of Local Authorities to know all the details about the cost of school books, blackboards, etc. For this information they rely on the advice of officers of the Education Department who recommend to each Authority what school equipment is needed and how much it will cost. Then again School Committees, when preparing to put up new school buildings, send their plans to the Education Office. Since the staff of the Department have seen so many schools and studied so many plans, they are usually able to offer suggestions for improvements in the plans submitted to them. Our Group Supervisors visit schools all over the country. In rural areas many of the teachers are doing pioneer work by bringing education to people who have previously had no experience of schools. The young tea-

chairs in these new schools have to gain the confidence and understanding of parents and the people. They have to persuade parents to send their children to school at the right age and at the beginning of the school year, and to send them to school regularly. They sometimes have to face local opposition about the subjects that are taught in school. They may have difficulties with the parents about the payment of fees or with the School Committee about the buildings and furniture. Visiting supervisors try to help them with these problems as well as to give them guidance on the teaching of school subjects and the character-training of children.

There are two other special ways in which the Education Department helps the schools of Sarawak. The first is by organising, or helping to organise, public examinations. For certain purposes, for example for admission to places of study overseas, it is necessary that publicly recognised examinations should be held. The Education Department therefore organises the holding of the Cambridge School Certificate examinations each year. The Department also takes a leading part in the organisation of the Sarawak Junior Secondary examination which will take the place of the old "Junior Cambridge". The Education Department also assists the Chinese Schools to organise common Higher Primary and Middle School examinations.

The second way in which the Department helps the schools of Sarawak is by the training of teachers.

Teachers for all kinds of schools are trained together at Batu Lintang, near Kuching. I need not explain here the many advantages there are in having a single training centre for the whole country where students of different races and religious lines and study together. For teachers who are already serving, the Department organises short courses during the school holidays.

The advice which the Education Department offers to school management is based on certain general aims about the kind of school system which we wish to build up in Sarawak. These general aims form the policy of the Department. They are concerned with such matters as the languages to be used in our schools; the length of the school course, whether fees should be charged or not, and so on. It would take a long time to explain fully the policy of the Department on these and other important matters. I can only tell you this evening what are, briefly, our chief aims.

Our first aim—and I am afraid we are a long way from achieving it—is to give primary education to every boy and girl in the country. At present about 80% of the people of Sarawak are unable to read and write. To overcome this illiteracy we aim at providing at least 4 years of primary schooling for every child. Four years is the minimum length of time necessary to ensure that children properly master the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. We want these primary schools eventually to be paid for from rates and taxes, and not from fees, and we want primary education to become compulsory. But at present there are good reasons why fees are charged, and the time has not yet come to make attendance compulsory. We want children, wherever it is practicable, to be taught during their early years of schooling, in their mother tongue. For this reason, as well as for geographical reasons, most of our lower Primary schools will be for children of the same race. But we want English to be taught as a subject in these schools. For this, apart from its other advantages, English can be used as the language of instruction in our post-primary schools and training centres, and thus make it possible at these places for pupils of different races to study together.

We shall have for some time to be content with a 4-year Primary Course as our minimum aim for all children. But opportunities must be provided for selected children to continue their education in Higher Primary classes (that is, for another two years) and for a proportion of these to obtain vocational, which includes technical, training, or to enter secondary schools. It is essential that a proportion of our children receive this post-primary stage of education, for it is this stage

which provides Government and the Mission and commercial firms with recruits of the standard of education required. And it is the secondary schools which give some of our people the qualifications necessary for admission to universities and other overseas institutions.

And that brings me to the other main objective in the policy of the Education Department. We must see that our educational system gives Sarawak boys and girls the opportunity to be trained as doctors and engineers and agricultural and forestry officers, and to qualify themselves for the most responsible posts in the administration of the country. In this way the Education Department serves the wider aims of the Sarawak Government, and of the British Government, in helping to prepare the people of this country to govern themselves. At the moment there are more than 30 Sarawak students studying, under various scholarship schemes, in universities and colleges in Great Britain, Malaya, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. These students will return to Sarawak to take a leading part in the development of their country.

I began by saying that the Education Department is mostly concerned with schools for children. But the Department is also interested in the education of adults. At the Rapid Improvement School, Kuching, young men and women are given a two-year course of training in improved methods of agriculture, hygiene and infant welfare, and are taught to read and write and to do simple first arithmetic. The Education Department has also sent teachers to certain rural areas to teach reading and writing to adult men and women. One of our teachers is now holding literacy classes for adults in the Lower Saiting area. These classes are proving popular among the men. The oldest of our pupils, who is just beginning to read, is a man of 80 from Kampong Semara.

There is much more money being spent on education in Sarawak to-day than was spent five or six years ago. But the cost of education will increase still more in the future if we try to realise the aims I have spoken of—primary education for every child in the country, and for the ablest children post-primary education and the opportunity to qualify for the most responsible positions in government and commerce. How is this money to be found? Ultimately it can only be found by an increase in the productivity of the country and that is a matter which it is difficult to forecast. But I should like to mention here two of the principles which have been followed during the last six years in the financing of education.

Whenever Local Authorities and Municipal Councils have been formed, Government has handed over to them the responsibility for primary education in their areas. Local Authorities directly manage some schools in their areas and give financial aid to others. At the same time, Government has given to these authorities a grant of money which is enough for them to manage or aid the existing primary schools and sufficient in nearly every area to pay for a considerable extension of their primary school system. But any further progress in the expansion of primary education is left largely in the hands of the Local Authorities themselves. This means that the rate of progress towards the achievement of our aim in education—at least in regard to primary education—will vary in different areas. Progress in primary education will depend largely upon the willingness of the people in each Local Authority area. It will depend especially upon their willingness to find the money to pay for more teachers and schools. How should people in Local Authority areas find the money for more primary schools?

Our advice to LAA is to raise the money by charging education rates and school fees. Education rates mean that every tax-payer in the Local Authority area pays something towards the cost of education, whether or not he is a parent, and whether or not he lives near a school. This is fair because it is not only parents who will benefit from the existence of schools. Equally the schools will benefit everyone in the area by raising the general standard of living, and it is only right that everyone should contribute to this improve-

ment, and not just the present parents. But parents do of course gain a rather special advantage from the schools, and this fact is recognized by requiring them to pay school fees.

The money which L.A.A. get for education from the Government grant and from education rates and fees is needed mainly to pay for, or give grants towards, the salaries of teachers.

But what about the cost of the school buildings and furniture, and of quarters for teachers? If these were paid for by the Local Authority or by Government, there would be much less public money available for the payment of teachers or of grants towards their salaries and for the training of new teachers. Government policy about buildings has therefore been to rely on what is known as "self-help". Whenever a primary school is needed—Local Authority or District School, Private, Mission or Chinese School—the local people have been asked to build and furnish the school themselves and to provide the teachers' quarters. This task has been undertaken by School Committees and I wish to say here what a debt of gratitude Sarawak owes to the members of these School Committees who have voluntarily given their time and labour and their money to building and maintaining our primary schools.

I should like to explain now some of the ways in which parents can cooperate to help the progress of our schools.

First of all, we want you to send your children to school at about the age of six. This is the age at which all over the world formal education usually begins. In the towns and larger villages most parents now send their children to school at the right age, but unfortunately in rural areas this is not always possible as the distances which have to be travelled to school are sometimes too great for small children.

Secondly, we want you to send your daughters, as well as your sons, to school. At present the number of girls in school is only about half the number of boys, and in many schools it is much less than half. This is very unsatisfactory. Girls have as much right as boys to the good things of life, of which education is one. Parents find their daughters with the same care that they find their sons, why should they deny their daughters education, which is a kind of mental nourishment? We need educated women in Sarawak, not just because we need nurses and midwives and school teachers, but because we want the wives and mothers of Sarawak to be educated women, who will understand how to make healthy, happy homes and how to bring up children rightly. Somebody has said: "Educate a boy, and you educate a man. Educate a girl, and you educate a family". This is a true saying, for the upbringing of children depends so much upon the mother and an educated mother will never allow her family to grow up illiterate.

Thirdly, it is very important that parents should understand how essential it is for children to attend school regularly. Perhaps it is difficult for parents who have not been to school themselves to realize the importance of regular attendance. Schooling is not one of those things which you can do from time to time when there is nothing better to do. The child's task, and the teacher's task, is made almost impossible hard if the child is frequently absent. Yet in many of our rural schools attendance falls below 80%. Perhaps 80% sounds a good figure, but it means that on the average every child is absent one day each week. That is enough to be a serious handicap to teacher and child. In some areas children are required to help their parents by tapping rubber in the early morning, in such areas school committees arrange that lessons begin later in the day, so that all the children can attend. In other areas children have to follow their parents to the farms during periods of the year. Here school committees try to arrange that the school holidays coincide with these periods when the families are living away from the village. There are many problems in providing schools for longhouse dwellers and we do not yet know the best solution to all these problems. It is certain

that we shall not make much progress with our rural schools if parents take their children away during term time to live on the farms.

This problem of regular attendance is closely connected with another problem, that of "wastage". Those who write about schools, use the word "wastage" when they are referring to the numbers of children who leave school before they have completed the school course. In our Lower Primary schools, this means the children who leave school before they have completed Primary Four. Unfortunately many children leave school when they have only passed Primary One, Two or Three. They have not learnt enough to be of much use to them, they have just wasted the teacher's time, which he might have given instead to keener pupils. Why do so many pupils leave school before they have passed Primary Four? In some cases perhaps because the parents do not realize that at least 4 years in school are necessary. But more often, I think because the children's attendance has been very poor. The children have therefore made little progress in school, and both they and their parents have lost interest in schooling. Irregular attendance is the real cause of the wastage.

Finally there is a matter which especially affects those parents who live in our towns. The responsibility for the up-bringing of children rests primarily upon the parents. By paying school fees, parents do not hand over to schoolmasters the whole responsibility for the character and conduct of their children. The schools help in this matter, and so do many other organizations, but fathers and mothers must play the principal part. Good parents show constant interest in their children's progress in school, they watch over their spare time activities and take note what kind of friendships their children are making. Schools and parents have to work together in their common task of training the citizens of to-morrow.

M. G. DENISON

[The above is the text of two radio broadcasts by the Deputy Director of Education over Radio Sarawak. Mr. Denison also spoke the radio himself in Malay and in Malay.]

Kuching Amateur Athletic Association

The Kuching Amateur Athletic Association was founded last year and on July 24th has its first Championship Meeting was held in Kuching.

We regard these events as of much beneficial importance in the history of athletics in Sarawak that we are printing below, with permission, the first Annual Report of the Association, prepared on behalf of the Council by the Rev. Father Douglas Rankin, the Honorary Secretary.

The meeting on July 24th was opened, and the prizes distributed by His Excellency the Governor, the Patron of the Association and President of the Meeting. In welcoming His Excellency, Mr. Tom Kai Choon, the President of the Association, who with many others had laboured so hard and generously on its behalf, spoke, and spoke truly, of the spirit of happiness and enthusiasm which pervaded the Meeting. This spirit was not at all dampened either by the torrential rain which had flooded the ground just before the opening nor by the qualifications of competitors, who in their usual courtesy frequently forgot to check off the microphone on moments when their observations had no direct bearing on the business in hand.

Declaring the meeting open, His Excellency stressed the historic importance of this residence also for the athletes of Sarawak, and his certainty that it would lead to many memorable pages in the country's history. Mr. Anthony urged public and athletes alike to ensure that the Association's work is maintained, and we hope

that this plea will ensure that the Membership List, which we print below, will rapidly and continuously increase.

REPORT

In this report of the first year of the Association we cannot claim to have accomplished anything spectacular in the way of growth or performance. We have however made some progress towards the satisfaction of all the aims and objects of the Association and that should provide a measure of satisfaction to those who have contributed help to this infant body.

The idea of an Amateur Athletic Association has come years back, but it is only three years since concrete proposal were made for its formation. Then it is right to record appreciation of the work of Mr. John Gosdy, Sarawak representative of the British Council, who attempted over a long period of time to obtain the services of a qualified coach to conduct a series of courses for coaches and athletes in this and neighbouring territories. It was felt that such a visit would provide the occasion and impetus for the formation of an Association in Kuching. Mr. Gosdy's efforts met with eventual and deserved success and the news of an impending visit from Mr. H. Chapman, Senior Athletics Coach for Scotland, resulted in the formation of an interim Committee on July 17th, 1953.

This Committee was responsible for drafting a constitution and rules for the Association and manuscripts drafted in preparation for Mr. Chapman's arrival in Kuching and in the organization of the Rotary Club sports meeting. In passing we would once again pay tribute to the Rotary Club for their past promotion of this annual meeting and at the same time express appreciation of their generosity in affording financial help at the foundation of the Association.

The courses run by Mr. Chapman were very successful. They were followed regularly by some twenty individuals, including representatives from Sibau, Bating and Simanggang. While we do not pretend that this single course ensured all that is necessary to produce champions, it did result in enthusiasm and interest which the Association could aim to sustain. It must be one of our objects to make another such visit possible within a few years, and nothing would be more satisfactory than that Mr. Chapman should return.

Following the foundation of the Association and its registration on October 21st, 1953, efforts were made to recruit members and raise funds. The success of the former can be seen from the Appendix. We would emphasize the need for more members as resulting in greater enthusiasm and encouragement to all athletes.

With reference to the raising of funds we acknowledge in particular the great generosity of the Social Welfare Council in making a large grant. This has provided for the purchase of equipment sufficient for large scale athletic meetings and for literature and other instructional material. Equipment is freely available to interested bodies and/or individuals and we hope that it will increasingly be called into use, as also the services of Honorary Coaches.

We do not anticipate the Association requiring a very large income. Five thousand dollars per annum should be sufficient to provide for domestic and inter-State meetings in British Borneo. Competition in the Federation of Malaya or elsewhere would of course involve further expenditures. But it will readily be realized that even five thousand dollars per annum cannot be raised by members' subscriptions, hence we are faced with the problem of how funds are to be raised year by year to satisfy our declared objects.

The first Championship Meeting was held on July 24th, 1954 at the Jubilee Recreation Ground. The success of this meeting should be estimated not in terms of performances but from the interest shown by competitors. There were one hundred and six entries, a creditable total. Standards were not high, occasionally they were below some previously recorded in Kuching, but the overall picture was encouraging: 10.6 secs. for

the yards and 34.5 secs for the 120 yards heat were good times and 11 feet 7 inches in the long jump performance was a notable performance. It is worth noting that prior to 1954 rules permitted such preliminary jumps being included in the determination of the final result. The meeting pointed in particular to the efforts made in training by the athletes of St. Joseph's School, who met popular and well deserved success.

Subsequently the Association took the bold step of selecting three athletes to form part of a joint British Borneo Territories team to the Malaya Championships at Kuala Lumpur, August 13th—14th. Whereas this involved heavy expenditure, it provided valuable experience and has created enthusiasm and the long term results should justify this entry of Sarawak into overseas competition. The arrangements for the team and its management fell to Mr. Singham the Honorary Secretary of the Borneo A.A.A.

We are most grateful to that Association for its friendly help. While we await a report on the meeting from Mr. Singham we have some details of our own performers. Vincent Yong performed very well, failing finally to clear 18ft. Six, in the preliminary round of the Pole Vault. Poir Thien ran a close fourth in a heat won in 9.2 secs. Chan Pak Weng managed only 12ft. Six, his one successful trial. All three athletes have learned a great deal and we confidently expect to see the results in next year's meetings. Meanwhile we offer them our congratulations on representing us and Sarawak as the vanguard in this quality of competition.

In July Mr. D. St. J. Farrow attended the first Borneo A.A.A. Championships at Kuala Belait and subsequently took part as our official representative in joint discussions with the Brunei and North Borneo delegations on the proposed formation of a British Borneo Athletic Board. The objects of this board are in brief to approve records, arrange for inter-State meetings and to co-ordinate competitive athletics in the joint territories. A constitution for the Board has been drafted and is now being discussed by the associations concerned.

The success of our July meeting was very largely due to the development of the Jubilee Recreation Ground. We are most grateful for the work of the Jubilee Recreation Ground Trust Fund Committee and to the Trust Club as managers of the property. Without their cooperation an adequate ground would have been available. Mr. William Tan has been especially useful since as a member of the Council he had first-hand knowledge of our needs. At the same time we would mention the work done by many members of the Association towards the same end and make passing reference to the expenditure of part of our own small funds in the provision of pits and other facilities for field events.

We look forward to 1955 with the following in mind:

1. The encouragement of athletics in Associated Clubs by the provision of equipment and visual aids and by the establishment of athletic standards and the award of standard medals.
2. The formation of Clubs and Associations elsewhere, particularly in Sibau and Simanggang, and the formation of a Sarawak A.A.A.
3. The promotion and/or encouragement of inter-Club, inter-School and inter-State meetings.
4. The further development of the Jubilee Ground as an athletic and sports centre. We are prepared to assist in this in any way we can. We would like to see there an International Sporting Club as the centre for all games and athletics. Such a provision is badly needed and the Jubilee Hall and ground would seem to be the natural and proper place for such a club.

We are sincerely grateful to all those, headed by our Patron, who have given us practical support, help and encouragement during the past year. Donors of trophies were very generous, and we were enabled to purchase the best.

Mr. D. S. J. Farrow as Treasurer of the Association deserves a special mention in view of his transfer to Sibau. He has been most capable and enthusiastic. While we regret the immediate loss to ourselves, we confidently anticipate further development of athletics in Sibau as a result of his being there.

To Mr. A. P. Meredith we extend our thanks for consenting to become our Honorary Auditor as also to Dr. F. F. Coppalis Mills for acting as our Honorary Physician and Medical Adviser.

In conclusion, we cannot emphasize too much the fact that amateur athletics is primarily and always a re-

creation. We are not concerned only with champions, but with the average young man who wishes to take part in healthy outdoor recreation, to build up a fit body and mind, in the company of other athletes.

The importance of this is self-evident in a country like Sarawak, where opportunity and inclination for formal P. T. are limited in schools and outside.

But the Association cannot succeed without the voluntary service and support of interested individuals. With that help there is no limit to what can be achieved; without it Amateur Athletics cannot exist.

APPENDIX

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Life members:—

1. Tan Kai Cheon—60/65 Eng Hai Street, Kuching.
2. The Bishop of Borneo: Rt. Revd. Nigel Crosswell—Bishop's House, Kuching.
3. H. Eamsdam—c/o Education Department.
4. H. G. Gray—22, Carpenter St. Kuching.
5. Leslie Marjoribanks
6. His Excellency the Governor: Sir Anthony Foster Abell K.C.M.G.—Astana.
7. J. A. G. Benson—c/o H. M. Customs, Kuching.
8. Chua Sook Jit—12, Main Bazaar, Kuching.
9. Mr. Justice L. D. Smith c/o Supreme Court, Kuching.

Individual members, 1954:—

1. Yeo Cheon Joo—12/13 Boys Home, Sungai Puteh, Kuching.
2. Revd. D. R. Kewlin—Batu Lintang School, Kuching.
3. Lee Ghim Yam—19, Book Road, Kuching.
4. Kong Yu Song—St. Thomas' School, Kuching.
5. Edward Brandish—Sarawak Constabulary, Kuching.
6. William Tan—Reservoir Road, Kuching.
7. R. J. Denton—Trade & Customs Dept. Kuching.
8. D. J. Chandler—Secretary, Kuching.
9. M. J. Hadley—Lands & Survey Department, Kuching.
10. F. S. K. Kato—Lands & Survey Department, Kuching.
11. John Goady—The British Council, Kuching.
12. I. A. N. Ungphart—Secretary, Kuching.
13. P. S. Jones—Information Office, Kuching.
14. M. G. Dickson—Education Department, Kuching.
15. A. K. Pringait—General Hospital, Kuching.
16. D. St. J. Farrow—Sarawak Constabulary, Kuching.
17. R. E. Chater—Trade & Customs Dept. Kuching.
18. E. Bomphrey—P.W.D. Kuching.
19. W. G. Steele—Education Department, Samarang.
20. E. W. Coates—c/o Secretariat, Kuching.
21. T. Azenborough—The Lodge, Kuching.
22. Abang Haji Manapha—Central Road East, Kuching.
23. H. T. Wu—c/o Education Dept. Kuching.
24. Ho Lai Wan—Treasurer, Kuching.
25. C. F. Hart—c/o P.W.D. Kuching.
26. C. E. Robertson—c/o P.W.D. Kuching.
27. Cheong Kia Huan—Cheong Kim Eng & Co. Kuching.
28. P. E. Turnbull—c/o Constabulary Headquarters, Kuching.

Club membership—1954:—

1. St. Joseph's School, Kuching.
2. Police Training School, Kuching. (Commandant)
3. MNUA Arts & Culture Branch, 36 Road, Kuching.
4. Batu Lintang Training Centre & School, Kuching.
5. Kuching Boys Club, Padungan, Kuching. (Hon. Secretary)
6. S. G. A. G. U. Kuching.
7. Chung Hua Middle School, Kuching.
8. Hai Hai Club—Tan Hui Chiew c/o Wee Kheng Chuan Co., Kuching.
9. St. Thomas' School, Kuching.
10. St. Michael's Catholic Association, Kuching.
11. Hai Tow Club c/o Lee Han Cheon, Kuching.
12. Indian Association c/o Hon. Secretary, S&K Temple, Kuching.

Underground Water Supplies in British Borneo

Underground water supplies are already used at some places in British Borneo, and are being investigated in others. This account outlines the source of water obtained from wells and records observations on the geological conditions of some wells. It may help in deciding whether it is worth trying to obtain underground supplies where surface shortages occur. At first sight it seems unnecessary to search for underground water where the average annual rainfall is fairly well distributed, and is between 100 and 150 inches. In British Borneo this is normally so, and surface supplies are adequate. In certain areas, mainly inland and coastal regions, supplies of usable water are limited, and wells are valuable. Islands do not often have sufficiently large rivers or catchment areas for adequate supplies. Along the coast brackish water extends up the rivers, and supplies of fresh water from surface sources can only be obtained by piping water for considerable distances, a process which is expensive for small population centres. Water from underground sources is only worth searching for where such difficulties exist, and where development of surface supplies is impossible or is at unjustifiable cost. The relative merits of surface supplies as compared with underground sources broadly, that is, obtaining water from rivers rather than wells are as follows. For large supplies in towns, river water treated in a purification plant is the best source, as it is permanently assured. With wells there is always some doubt as to their capacity and the permanency of the supply. Furthermore, mud troubles may occur and when these happen special staff and equipment are required to remedy them. A well, on the other hand, will often be satisfactory for a small community, or as a temporary supply, and is unquestionably more economical than a treatment plant or a long pipe line. Even when a search for underground water is successful, and supplies are found, they are not always satisfactory for human consumption. At some localities the water is too acid, at others too saline, or the water is contaminated by decaying vegetable matter and cannot be used. Furthermore, a satisfactory supply of underground water may be found, but after it has been used for a time it tends to dry up. This may either be due to the exhaustion of the supply or, more often, to silting clogging the beds and preventing flow into the well. Where this occurs it is usually best to sink another well in the vicinity.

In 1953, in addition to shallow wells supplying small communities at many places in the territories, water was being pumped from relatively deep wells at the following localities:

- (a) Saria, on the coast of Borneo
- (b) Labuan Island

The development of underground water supplies was in progress, or was being considered, at:

- (a) Sebantik Island, off the southeast coast of North Borneo
- (b) Sandakan on the east coast of North Borneo
- (c) Kudat in the northwest of North Borneo
- (d) Jesselton on the west coast of North Borneo
- (e) Sarikel, in the Rajang estuary, Sarawak

NATURE OF UNDERGROUND WATER

Underground water supplies are of two types:

- (a) Artesian
- (b) Ground-water

Artesian conditions exist when water is found under pressure below beds of rock through which it cannot pass. The water rises towards the surface when this

impermeable rock is penetrated by a well or borehole, and if the pressure is sufficient, runs or sprouts out to the surface and gives a flowing well. Ground-water is a term used to describe water which has soaked into porous rock. It originates from the downward percolation of water from rain and rivers, and is the source tapped by ordinary wells and springs. In British Borneo artesian water has so far rarely been encountered, and most underground supplies come from ground-water. At Saria the Sangai Tall wells were originally artesian but it soon became necessary to pump the water; the occasional artesian flows found elsewhere during drilling in the region have also soon ceased to flow.

Geology is of importance to the seeker of underground water, as, whether or not underground supplies exist, depends on there being porous rocks in which they can occur. If the rocks are hard and compact they cannot act as water reservoirs as there are no possibilities of underground supplies.

The rocks in British Borneo, when examined for underground water supplies, can be subdivided into the following types:

- (a) Alluvial deposits
- (b) Tertiary beds consisting mainly of sandstone and shale
- (c) Older sedimentary rocks, and igneous rocks.

Alluvial deposits and Tertiary rocks are the most likely to yield underground water. The chances are small that supplies will be found in the older sedimentary and igneous rocks. Ground-water, however, may occur overlying these hard rocks in the weathered surface zones which average from a few feet to 100 feet in thickness. Where they contain water the supplies are generally limited, and the yields are mostly small. Tests made in Malaya show this. In British Borneo such rocks do not appear to have been tried for water supplies.

Alluvial deposits are among the best sources for small local supplies of underground water, and in British Borneo a number of shallow wells exist and satisfactorily supply the needs of small communities. Such wells depend, however, mainly on rainfall, and may tend to dry up during a dry spell, which is naturally the time when water is in greatest demand. Among the best situations of such wells are river valleys where sand and gravel are common and allow adequate percolation and to some extent filter the water; but even these supplies may be limited.

Along Bornean coasts the extensive areas of alluvium are mostly unreliable sources of satisfactory supplies of ground water. Some wells will be successful but there is considerable risk of relatively high expenditure being incurred for a poor result. Much of the ground-water in the coast deposits is not drinkable, being brackish, high in salt content and often contaminated by decaying vegetable matter. This is probably due to many of the deposits having formed under marine swamp conditions. The coastal deposits near the surface often contain peaty soil, or clay rich in vegetable matter; below are commonly beds of clay, sand and gravel, often with interbedded bands of peat. Decaying vegetable matter is included at various levels, but is commonest near the surface. It contaminates the water.

[NOTE: A full account of the above subject appears in the Geological Survey's Annual Report for 1953 (published by the Government Printing Office, Kuching) on pp. 8 to 17.]

Hong Kong Diary

January 15th 1954

A smooth, sunny, cloud-carpeted flight from Manila to Hong Kong, four hours' long. Harry Williams met me at Kai-Tak Airport glittering in the sun. Called later on Leslie Smith, and was delighted to see him again. On the flight I felt again that wonder of the ignorant and uncalculable: how, flying a flat in infinite space, could the aeroplane go in a straight line (as it at least appeared to do) to the one small point on the long, long coast of China we seek—the one and only point where we can land? The plane looks as wishbone as ever.

H.E.—of Sarawak—telephoned and said he has been given the Director's suite on one of the Macao steamers on Sunday, and will I go with him and come back on Sunday, "and we can take pictures and lose our money." I certainly will. H.E. is on holiday at the Bishop's Bay Hotel and I should have thought he would not have wanted to see a Sarawak face.

January 15th

Looking in a new book-shop, the Asia Book Shop, yesterday afternoon (and if ever I am lost to the world, it is when contemplating books) I was started by a female voice saying clearly in my ear "Are you going home by bus? If so, may I come with you?" and I turned to find a plump Chinese girl, well dressed in black and pearls, standing at my side. I thought I was far too old and plain, and certainly not rich enough looking, to be accosted.

Went home alone and walked for an hour, fast, round the Peak in a lovely cold wind, and back by a hot taxi, to find Ah Sing, Harry's "boy", immersed in shorts having his hair cut by a young Chinese in the scullery.

A Mongolian dinner at Leslie's guest: the dinner, after an appetizer of delicately meat, began with the bringing of hot bowls of soup to the table, of many and gay colours—and pepper, pre-put butter, fish oil, soy, vinegar, and two green ones, and many others (as it is named) and each guest began by mixing these sauces in his own bowl (it is best what pleased him: a delicate and most pleasing task). Then a charcoal burner was set where the sauces had been, and around it plate after plate of fish, then slices of steamed mutton. Held in the burner three cooked in ten seconds, and dipped in the saucy liquor of rump-steak delicacy. Vegetables, treated in the same way, followed.

January 16th

Met H.E. at the Gloucester to be with him the guest of Mr. Tang Shiu-Kin, a very lively, successful, generous, recently handsome business man, retired in a plain and dignified brown-grey robe which fell to his feet. The quality of his face I cannot describe—in handsomeness lies not in feature but in a kind of clear, open, alert strength; and his close cropped, almost shaven, hair takes nothing from its power.

After lunch we were taken to one of Mr. Tang's Macao steamers, the s.s. *Patience*, and there installed in the Director's suite, at the stern, under the care of Mr. Eee Yee Nin, one of Mr. Tang's colleagues. On three sides of our cabin a wide deck was reserved for us, and we spent the three hours' voyage sleeping or looking at the silver-blue and smooth sea of the Pearl River mouth and its islands.

Another of Mr. Tang's men, Mr. Li Ho Ko, assigned to H.E. for his stay in Macao, met us and took us to "Faraway Bungalow," which turned out to be a handsome and far from bungled and very Latin villa on a hill above the sea. My next bedroom, parqueted like glass, was furnished with cream brussels, green sheets, ivory blankets, two kinds of Chinese brilliance, and numerous lamps with plugs that did not fit in their sockets. Two very cheerful plain-clothes Por-

tuguese policemen, in blue cardigans (no doubt to hide their weapons) are assigned to guard H.E. and the house; and Koo and Li await our every move and word and provide everything we ask. We go to the curio shop in the Riviera Road. The grey, benign-looking proprietor offers H.E. pieces of china as souvenirs. H.E. buys a lovely chair-de-lac rose-wood. We go on to the Central Hotel, the 7 or 8 story center of Macao's life: "in Macao," one of our guides told me, "every vice is known and practised." Before we reach the upper gambling floor we are taken for a few moments to a first-class table where an old man with amazing accuracy forecasts as soon as the pile of buttons is uncovered what the number of the surplus few will be after all the groups of four have been taken away. Then we stop, a little higher up, at an exhibition of Chinese paintings—scrolls—done by a young, unknown, Chinese. They are full of promise and, some, of beautiful achievement. Nearly all these we should like very reserved, but that goes for nothing. These will be given to H.E. if he would like them, and the boy will paint more for his friends. H.E. fought against not being allowed to pay, and said we would remain.

A little more betting, and then a superb Chinese dinner, on yet another floor, with Mr. Ho Yio, a leading magistrate, at our host.

Then we dance in the dark quiet hall in the hotel, remembered from a visit with the language students in 1951. Four pretty and pleasing girls join us, and one conspires me by saying, with entire disregard for truth, "You dance good." Another (they are all Chinese, of course) is so small that our progress ceases with all round the floor as we go; but quiet words. As H.E. said later, it was so pleasant to be in a place of the kind where people are not continuously making loud and drunken noises.

Up early—for Sunday, and round the town, taking pictures and looking and talking: the fountain gate and all the tidy vegetable gardens near it; the big Chinese temple, still with the tiger scroll I remembered; the levels of the old cathedral; the Protestant cemetery. Back to the painter, where we took our pictures—H.E. two, I five—and at last payment was accepted, and the artist, full of shyness and charm, wrote our names on each. Earlier we had been to sign the book at the British Consulate and had left it unsigned because a not very comprehending Chinese girl told us that the *Funeral*—very sensible—was still in bed.

Lunch (after we had called on Mr. Gellion, the famous Englishman who provides electricity for the Colony, at his high and lovely white mansion looking at the sea on both sides) was with Dr. Lobo, at his Villa Verde, an astonishing string of green-washed houses providing a villa for each of his children and a housekeeping station upstairs. The British Consul, John Cowan, and his beautiful and charming wife were there, and the food and wine sumptuous.

Then to a much advertised boxing contest, between Macao and Hong Kong exponents of different styles of Chinese boxing. The match is in the open-air swimming pool, the ring being built in the pool and thirty looking stands put up all round, to accommodate, they say, 10,000 people, some of whom have paid up to \$100.00 for a seat. We are late, and police push a channel for us through the crowds to the Governor's stand. The Governor, Almirante Joaquim Marques Espirito, and his lady, Senhora Dama Laurinda, in an ornamental velvet hat, are already there, and preliminary runs, dancing, shadow boxing, displays of aboriginal muscle control, are in full swing. The Governor's grandstand is on the opposite side of the ring from the film camera stand, which is naturally the greater attraction and so we see only the backs of a number of the men.

At 4 o'clock the great event, heralded by speeches and applause, begins. The Hong Kong boxer is middle-aged, the Macao man younger and a little apologetic looking. Face hats are used. Each wears black

trousers, Macao a singlet still white and clean—for the moment—and Hong Kong one made large by time and work.

The first round lasts perhaps a minute and a half; Hong Kong gives Macao a couple of sharp upper-cuts to the face; Macao runs down to the white singlet, the bell rings, Hong Kong looks even angrier than at the beginning, probably because at one moment he was half pushed from the ring by Macao, and the seconds try to remove Macao by water on head and back of neck, pummeling his shoulder blades, and flapping his loose black trousers up and down. After a long interval round two begins. Macao is clearly bewildered, his wildy and with no success: Hong Kong hits Macao again and spreads more blood, and adopts an expression of murderous determination; and the referee declares the battle over, in a draw. The fighting lasted perhaps 200 seconds. Fact was no doubt saved, both called off; and I wonder who is happy?

The Governor of Macao possesses a number of gold, or gilt, cups in glass cases to smilling recipients not connected with the boxing. For what these are awarded is not clear to us. A winned little man with so thin and a great deal of hair comes to the microphone with a violinist and sings Chinese songs of which scarcely a sound is heard above the noise of the crowd, and Mrs. Cowan tells me he is the honored hero of most of the Cantonese films made in Hong Kong.

We go, drive to the Governor's residence, get his official palace, to sign his book; are taken by Mr. Li to several entertaining "wau" shops go a narrow dark street near the market; to the Conchada—Smith—for smoked salmon and cherry (or gin) and to the Fatousz again, where we are soon off with the strict kindness, intelligence, competence, graceful, that has surrounded us for 24 hours. The jade-like color of light that encircle the postmarks, the high blue sign on the Central Hotel, the Palace of the People, diminish and go. We dine, look at the dark islands of China in the gray light of a hidden moon, and lie up beneath the glister of Hong Kong at 10 o'clock. Kim, kind and impregnable to the end, takes B.L.E. to Repulse Bay and insists on taking me to my place 1200 feet up the Peak. We get lost, completely, in the clouds, wander up and down and along for an hour—the driver a very kind of patient. We find the house at midnight.

January 18th

Want to Kowloon to lunch with Austin Coates. Get completely lost, thanks to my own stupidity. Austin said "take a taxi to the Kowloon Police Court and my office is next door." I took a taxi to the Kowloon Police Justice, office, and \$1.00, away. Next door was a wide and desolate open space. I asked a chubby Chinese policeman outside if Mr. Coates, the District Officer, had his office there. "Yes," he answered smiling, and waved me into the Charge Room, to a long high counter where an Englishman sat on a chair and near him a great metal cage with half-dozen disconsolate Chinese, male and female, sitting on the floor within it. The office hadn't heard of Mr. Coates or of D.D.s and suggested I go to the Refugee Camp down the road—a camp for those thousands made homeless by a big fire in the squatter area at Christmas. I went, and searched but, office and fresh-beds there. It was hot and dusty, and nobody understood any English. I gave up and returned to the Police Station. "Oh, District Officer," said the inspector; looked up the telephone number, rang up Austin; ordered a taxi, and sent me to the Court.

In the evening Leslie Smith gave a dinner to a number of Chinese friends, including three very attractive women. The food, including a Peking Duck and a wonderful northern dish of chicken and walnuts, was quite excellent.

January 19th

Hong Kong, in fact, remains impressive, beautiful, astonishing in its variety, its people, its splendid and

its splendor. This afternoon I walked round the Peak Road. It was the hour when the children are out, some with amuse, some few with their mothers, the British ladies who cling like barnacles to their "pos-tion" and their privileges. I passed one of them sitting with her two children and their amuse. The little boy smiled up at me and I smiled back, at which his mother looked at me as if I were a sea-sick passenger in the next deck chair. This didn't surprise me. It did surprise me when, rather, at the train station, a tall, middle-aged, good-looking woman I had seen before smiled at me, but my surprise went when she spoke, because she was American.

Recital in the evening, at Queen's College, by a violinist, Maurice Chase. He plays very well, with a small but sure tone and beautiful musicianship, and the last half of the programme, Mozart, Bach, Schubert and Stravinsky (a lovely sonata, Op. 89, I'd not heard) was really first rate.

January 20th

Lunched with Kee Yau Niu, Mr. Lee from his bank, and Mr. Ho who is brother to Miss Yiu in Macao; and Leslie Smith. They want to give me a smoky dinner, and suggested tomorrow night. I said Leslie was dining with me and they promptly asked us both. Kee said, "If you want anything in Hong Kong, ask me for it and you shall have it. And if anyone comes to Hong Kong and I can help him, send him to me. A friend of yours is a friend of mine."

January 21st

Mr. Kee Yau Niu, our guide to Macao, and some of his colleagues of the Hong Seng Bank, gave the smoky dinner for Leslie Smith and me. It was held at the bank's sumptuous offices in Queen's Road, on the top floor, in a room of luxury and good taste. The cook lives on the premises and the dinner was of the first class. We began with snails, a brown rich soupy stew, of subtle and delicious flavors. We were told we should eat seven or eight bowls, but I settled for five, and others for less. Even so, we were told that the 10 of the party ate 90 snails, of three kinds, oysters and two other poisonous varieties. It was well that we—or at least I—didn't eat the eight bowls for three followed a delicious combination of fried walk, roast pigskin, shrimp, and other far from unattractive things.

Dinner in the evening, Leslie had taken Alexander Livers and me sprawling in Upper Lascar Row and on our way down the hill we passed a shop where the snails for eating are sold. There were eggs upon eggs of them; I should judge a hundred in each cage, rotting and taking their winter respiting breath.

January 22nd

Went to Cheung Chai with Austin Coates. This is an island—Long Island in the English meaning of the Cantonese name—in his District, an hour or so by ferry steamer south-west of Hong Kong Island, and of a shape very like St. Mary's in the Isles of Scilly, with the town at the narrow central isthmus. 22,000 people live on it (we passed close to it on our way to Macao a week ago) and another 10,000 fishermen make it their headquarters; and in the whole town, hills, with narrow mysterious streets and some good buildings, there is not even one bicycle: all, every single journey and carriage is by foot and hand. I think that with none but the Chinese could this ever be, the Chinese with their amazing industry and a physical strength and endurance their slight bodies would seem not made to hold—but there it is, and the realization of it left me wondering.

Austin's house, on a hill overlooking both bays, is most attractive—new, bright, well-shaped, and beautifully furnished—heavy rug; books; jade. He's writing his new book, a history of the British in Macao.

January 23rd

Leslie arrived by ferry at 9.45 with Austin's Chinese interpreter, with whom I lunched in Kowloon earlier this week, and another equally pleasant member of

the D.O. staff concerned (I gathered) with land, and we all set off in company with a large patrol Scots policeman, Ramsey Ross, the king of the island, who refuses to allow the bicycles to land) in the D.O.'s structure, a squat hut with a high superstructure like a miniature battleship. First we went to Ping Chua, an island half-hour away, to discuss an exchange of land for the building of a new market in the town. This involved a walk, in rain which grew heavier all the time, across the island to look at the farms land being offered in exchange to the owner of the town land sought for the market. We went through many fields, small ones, of vegetables scrupulously gardened—carrots, onions, lettuce, celery. Everyone most friendly.

This settled, or at least taken under consideration, we went off to another island, to discuss another land problem. Here, on a very steep hilly island uninhabited, two families—couples—have built themselves grass huts and there they live. One couple, we did not meet; of the other, the husband English, young, bearded, formerly secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Hong Kong, the wife dark and good-looking, from Philadelphia, both Quakers. He writes, for papers and radio; she, she said, is coach. The hut is perhaps 12 feet square, an earth floor covered with Chinese sleeping mats; two beds, two tables, a window, nice coloured covers and curtains, a bookcase. The wife goes to Hong Kong every two weeks to buy food, there is a stream, now very low, for water; and, as far as we could see, nothing more. In a few moments they had produced a delicious tea, with cinnamon, nutmeg and a little lemon squash—a most excellent drink.

We returned in wind and rain to Chong Chua, at a wonderful Chinese lunch at a restaurant by the sea with rain blowing in. There is a fairly long open way, flanked by very tall poinsettia plants, between the kitchen and the place where we ate, and we watch the staff going back and forth in the rain, always covering their heads with paper, a large straw hat, or a long strip of white cloth like a man's veil.

An hour and a half's rather turbulent crossing to Hong Kong, rain and cold wind all the way.

January 24th

Morning service at the Cathedral. A very good service, and a large congregation—though not enough Chinese in it—and most of the people seemed to be there because they were moved to come and found something real and significant when they got there. Certainly they heard, from the Bishop, an excellent and moving sermon. Centenary Sunday, he called it, because the Gospel for the day (which he read superbly from the pulpit before preaching) tells the story of the healing of the centurion's servant (Matthew, 8, 1). Two good points, he made: one, that in the Revised Version the whole significance of the story is made clear by the correct translation of the sentence "For I also am a man under authority". The Authorized Version has not the word "also". Its presence implies that the centurion realised, and believed, that Jesus also was a "man under authority", under the direct authority of God. That is why Christ said "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." The other point lies in the word "servant", with its implication not of moral goodness or badness, but of the true quality of the man: "I am not an important enough man—though all the power at Rome is behind me—and am not in myself a good enough example of mankind, for you to come beneath my roof." The Bishop developed the theme to show the immense, irreplaceable, omnipotent power of the love of God for man; and confirmed the conviction I came to when I was here in 1951, that except for Archbishop Temple, he is the best preacher I have ever heard, and in character and outlook as near to being a present-day saint as any man one could find.

The choir, of about 50, sang very well indeed, including an anthem "How lovely are the feet"—and all the priests who took part in the service treated the

words they used, and their significance, with respect and high skill. The Cathedral was as I remembered it, a good straightforward well-lit building, beautifully furnished in a middle-of-the-Anglo-west manner, and marred only by the long lines of ferns hanging from the roof like dead hair.

After the service I met Father En Song from Kaching, and with friends of his was given an excellent Chinese lunch. Among the party a young English soldier and his pretty Chinese wife, speaking excellent English, and a former teacher. He is a friend of Leslie Wilson in Kaching, and wants to come to Sarawak to live and work when he leaves the Army in May. "I never want to go back to England," he said: "I belong in South East Asia. I was sent home on leave two years ago and the evening I arrived I asked to go back at once, but they made me stay in England for 40 days and I hated every day of it." I promised to make enquiries on his behalf when I get home.

As we emerged to a wet cold afternoon—temperature 44—I met Michael Stewart from Phoenix Park, Singapore and even 3 minutes with him is refreshing and a stimulus. What had I bought? he began by asking.

Dinner in his house in the New Territories with John Howarth, to meet Hugh Gibb, Sunday Times correspondent, highly intelligent and entertaining, and planning a six-week visit to North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak in March. Discussed arrangements in detail. A most attractive house—Howarth is an architect, a member of a firm of Leigh and Orange who, I'm told by Henry Williams, do the best work in Hong Kong. There must be a great deal that is not there: it is the best tribute to Hong Kong's natural splendour that it manages still to be splendid in spite of the appalling outrageous slabs of concrete for human habitation stuck up higgledy-piggledy all over the hills.

January 25th

Cold grey rain all day, very English. Shopping. Enervatingly. All the goods of the earth must tempt themselves here. The accumulated wealth must be vast.

Leslie gave me a lauded dinner, Mongolian again. His kitchen never ends, and is always sensitive.

Moved over to the Peninsula Hotel in Kowloon because of the early start tomorrow. Harry took me down to the ferry. I hailed a taxi and put my bags in, and told him where I wanted to go. "No go Kowloon," said the driver, and at once took out my bags, dumped them on the sidewalk in the rain, and drove off. Four or five caddies appeared from nowhere, unasked, and grabbed the bags. It was 5.30, the height of the rain, and they disappeared down to the lower deck below I realised what was happening. I'm a stupid traveller still. But, after a crossing in which I was sure they would either run off with the bags, throw them in the sea after rifling them, or quietly remove just a few things, I met them at the other side and they ran the 250 yards to the hotel. I gave them \$2.00 a piece, and they asked for \$1.00.

At Leslie's dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Blunden—like his pictures and so different from the idea of him his work gives; small, academic and remote looking, but very lively and practical in his talk, especially about income tax and the need for separate arrangements now his wife has begun to teach. There was little chance of sustained talk, for the place was full, the Chinese singing musicians played, a small girl (aged 8) sang and kind absorbed us.

January 26th

Up at 4.30 and to the airport at 5.30. It wasn't freezing, but I would call no man a lion who said it was. Take-off was 6.30, but we sat about till 7.

At the counter there was a U.S.A.F. corporal, who wanted coffee and hadn't, he said, one penny of Hong Kong money left. I gave him coffee, and he said he was on leave from Korea, going back today

to Manila to get a "plane North." He had been in the Air Force three years and more and expected to be discharged in June. He then surprised me, used as I am both to the wonders of the East and the wealth of Americans, even corporals. He told me that yesterday at 11 a.m. he went to a tailor in Koonoon, to get himself up for when he leaves the Air Force. He ordered 3 suits, 4 sports jackets, 5 pairs of trousers, 5 overcoats (in Michigan as cold as here!), in tweed, worsted, cashmere, and camel's hair. From 11 o'clock in the morning he went for fittings every two hours, and at 11 o'clock the same night the whole lot was finished and delivered. This explains, he told me, why at 6 a.m. this morning he feels exhausted and has no money. I do not for a moment doubt the truth of his story; he clearly was not the kind of man to make it up.

We went on to the customs shed. A tough-looking Chinese ordered me to open my large bag. I did. He then fumbled, and pushed, and threw things about, and made me open parcels. He left the whole case in disorder, and, with no good reason, I felt angry. I've often seen this done to Chinese particularly in Singapore. Why not to me? He was quite right.

Manila at 11—the pilot having explained that we left Hong Kong half an hour late simply because we had to wait for daylight: there is no night flying at Hong Kong airport. That I well understand; but I don't understand why the hour of dawn is not known.

Alma Habesna, the two older children, and the two nice Igoot girls, Mariana and Lydia, met me. Alma radiant as always, in spite of all her concerns, and Jim away in Bangkok. I wished I had a diamond to give her.

Between Sandakan and Jesselton we passed close by Kinabalu. It was a wild and magnificent sight. We were well below the summit—the summit ridge, jagged and bare, and 13,000 feet above the sea. Behind the mountain and at the sides and in the gullies great columns of cloud, some in huge billows, shapely, some in long tongues and streamers, ugly and sinister; and behind the cloud the afternoon sun. We could not see the sun, but over everything there was the yellow radiance of its light. What made all this so very impressive, even frightening, was that we were so close to it: well below the top of the mountain, but above the lower slopes, the gullies and the clouds.

January 27th

I'm staying in Jesselton, by his kindness in Fletcher Rogers's spacious cream-colored house on a hill near the Secretariat, while he is in Kuching for a Court of Appeal. The place has great beauty, hills and the sea and long views, and some excellent new buildings—particularly the Chartered Bank.

Tonight Terence O'Shea, the extremely pleasant and very able Information Officer and his wife gave a party for me, very well done indeed. Fifty people. I should think, and among them a charming Chinese couple, Mr. and Mrs. Chang-Quok Mee (he has Kuching connections and his wife is the Chinese announcer, and excellent, they say, for Radio Sabah, which does an hour's broadcast, from noon to 1 p.m., in very primitive conditions, daily). Some very pleasant Europeans, and all the rest European, very friendly and kind, and the majority Government. I talked hard for 3½ hours. Before that, a visit to John and Ann Clapham, newly installed as Director of Medical Services in a pleasant house by the sea where we eat deliciously and I admired their new son, Graham.

January 28th

A journey to a village of Dusun six miles away, through rice fields and hills. A pleasant Dutch Father showed us the large, heavy stone church, and was very kind, a friend of Dennis Gordin. Talked Information office work most of the day. Rotary Club in the evening. They were overwhelmed by the presence of the District Governor from Singapore, and there was

no time for introducing guests and I had no chance to give greetings from Kuching.

January 29th

Flying home. Every time I fly I look forward more to the day when I shall never have to travel by air again. I suppose I began to fly too late or was born too soon or am simply too ignorant or not adventurous enough. But whereas a journey by train fills me with eager anticipation and by ship with pleasure fraught with mild concern about the weather, I look at every flight, even after many thousands of miles, with apprehension.

I suppose I should talk with a pilot, or one who understands. He would make it clear that engines do not stop in mid-air; that the sudden changes of time and rhythm in the motion do not mean anything; and that when, for no reason the eye can see, the aircraft drops what seems like hundreds of feet it will not go on dropping till it parachutes on the ground.

And what are these apprehensions? They should be easily answered. But they are not, even by all the statistics people will quote to you about the larger number of deaths from road accidents or in railway trains than in the air. I suppose this is partly the violence, the facility, the inability to know what to do—if there is anything to be done—in an aeroplane accident, and the still uncomparable strangeness of the accident. The anxiety is so foolish because the chances of death, as against survival in pain and discomfort, are so much larger in the air; and of quick death, which is the last thing in life to be feared. This side of death we hold to what we have because of our love, our desires, the things we own, the things we remember, and the things we still hope to do; but to exchange all those for either oblivion or pain untouched by regret or remorse can be no bad thing—certainly not any cause for fear. And it is so foolish to try to cling to one's own pleasures, one's hopes of doing something satisfying, for what are they and what will they become? Yet we go on, and I give thanks for the experiences of the past weeks and, above all, for the pleasure of coming home and the warmth of welcome that awaited me. . . . but I still shall one day ask a pilot why aeroplane engine noise change in the air and the machines don't fall to the ground.

P.S.I.

The Famous Battle of Rock Road

Good evening. Before I proceed with the satirical history I have to relate to you, I should warn all those listeners who respect law, order, and the majority of Government, to switch their wireless sets off, at once. In this way only these few people who have failed to take out their broadcast receiving licenses will not be listening to me; and it is to them, good say anarchists, that I address these few ill-chosen words.

Those of you who are acquainted with Kuching will be familiar with the Secretariat; perhaps "familiar" is the wrong word, for who could be familiar with that august building, erected as a public office in 1874, and now about to be scheduled as an ancient monument, to be haunted by the scarlet and black of the judiciary?

It has been observed by a careless citizen that familiarity breeds contempt. Whether this maxim is true of Government offices or not this history may, perhaps, bear witness; sufficient is it to say that on a certain day some months ago a number of office boys, Court peons and other little living spirits employed in and about the Secretariat petitioned the Government for a rise of ten cents per month in their wages, observing with some asperity that they refused to believe the recent statement of a senior Government officer, that there had been a sharp fall in the cost of living.

The ability of these boys was matched only by their ignorance of the ways of Government life, expecting a reply within a few days, they found to their alarm that

the days glided imperceptibly into weeks and months, without any indication from Government—other than a curt acknowledgment of their petition—that the matter was receiving that earnest consideration always given by Government to matters of high finance. Indeed, if these ignorant boys had only been aware of the fact, the film they frequently carried through the same corridors of the Secretariat dealt with their very problem, and contained vital information necessary to Government before any decision could be made on their petition. In fact, it was because two of these film, the one dealing with the price of glucose in Ierland, and the other with the expectation of life of Constabulary trombone players, had been mislaid, that Government was unable to consider the matter fully, as the public interest required.

Day by day the resentment of the boys mounted, until one of them, named Bojang, an earnest and well-qualified boy of 18 who was remarkable for his ability to imitate the Chief Secretary, and also to ride a bicycle whilst standing on his head (two from which had already marked him for early promotion), called a meeting of his fellows, and addressed them in inflammatory terms.

Fired by his zeal, the boys determined upon a conspiracy which, for other disastordness, left little to be desired. They took a solemn resolution to turn down the Secretariat, as a sign of their dissatisfaction with Government's conduct of their affairs. Yes, I am aware that even you, my hardened listeners, will turn pale with this intemperance, and be tempted to creep away and refresh yourselves with another cup of tea. But so it was. As soon as the minutes of this faithful meeting had been duly conferred, plans were made to carry the subversive scheme into immediate execution; and to that end ancient ties, impregnated with petrol supplied by a fellow-worker in the Public Works Department, were laid in and around the Secretariat.

Bojang was also a Boy Scout, and so fervently did he plead the cause of his fellow-workers, that he succeeded in obtaining the assistance of his Scout troop, whose ability to make a fire by rubbing two Girl Guides together had already earned them an award from the District Scout Commissioner. As soon as their brave lads were aware that a Campaign was to be held in the Secretariat their enthusiasm knew no bounds; and only with difficulty did Bojang, who was their Assistant Scout Master, restrain them from carrying his wicked and impious plan into immediate execution.

A recent writer in the *Straits Times* has suggested that Kuching is a quiet, placid town; he was deceived. On the surface, it is true, we give that impression—but strange fires burn beneath our smiling exterior.

As the Secretariat clock showed half-past six Bojang and his fellows crept stealthily back into the shadowy corridors of the Secretariat, and, applying themselves industriously to their tasks, soon had fires burning in the south, south and west corners of the building.

It was at this point that their activities were observed by a certain Lance Corporal Ismail, who was in charge of the posse of constables who, day and night, guard the Secretariat entrance. As Ismail observed afterwards, when he saw huge flames coming out of the building his suspicions were aroused; but, as he had just been lauded with the new and highly artistic uniform in which the Constabulary now rejoice, he felt that any active intervention on his part would repay his dress, and thereby earn him the censure of his superiors. With commendable zeal he therefore did nothing, but telephoned the Resident's House, in search of further instructions.

To his plea that the Secretariat was on fire he received, he assured a reporter afterwards, the words "What, on fire? Good show!"—words which, I am sure, could not have come from the Resident or, indeed, any other Government officer. Frustrated in his bid for administrative aid, Lance Corporal Ismail next telephoned Constabulary Headquarters who, with an astonishing sense of propriety, referred him to the Kuching Fire Brigade.

Unfortunately for Ismail the Fire Brigade men that evening holding a farewell dinner for one of their number, who was about to visit Singapore to learn more of the subtle art of fire-fighting; and it therefore took the Fire Brigade some little time before they arrived on the scene; and when they did arrive it must be admitted that some were more efficient than others.

By this time Bojang and his friends had done their worst and, gathering their forces, adjourned to a nearby coffee shop, in Rock Road, while the Fire Brigade, regarding the assistance of the Secretariat from the Sarawak River, applied themselves to the task of extinguishing the conflagration and of raising as many Secretariat files as was possible.

In the colloquy to which he had retired, Bojang observed a wireless set, and, finding to his incredulity that Radio Sarawak was on the air (strongly tho' he plotted a new course of action, which again he hastened to carry into execution. Exploiting three of the few richesses left in Kuching, he and his men departed along Rock Road, and in a few minutes entered the garish halls of Radio Sarawak.

By-passing a private studio in which a large red-dress was releasing a small unaccompanied wimp, Bojang and his gang invaded the main studio of Radio Sarawak, its main room reminiscent of the operating theatre of Bristol Hospital and, I assure my listeners, conjuring up similar sensations) and found themselves in the presence of the Thursday Forum, who were just about to tackle a vital and topical question, namely, "What prominent local person would the Forum most like to have on the Forum?" Appalled by Bojang's ghastly appearance (for his hair was black with smudges out of the past), an elderly matron, threw her bottle of gin in the air and, demanding police protection, collapsed on the floor, burning at the mouth; other members of the Forum endeavoured to speak all at once; and the question-master himself, a tall and brawny man, wished the invader Good evening, and proceeded with his task.

His good wishes were not, unfortunately, reciprocated, and a technical hitch is set in the wiring system, as some of my listeners may remember) terminated the broadcast before Bojang could address the world with his stirring phrases, "Glad boys of all Secretariats arise! You have nothing to lose but your bicycles."

So, frustrated in his plans, Bojang, followed by his fellows, retired in some circles, and, marching further up Rock Road, camped upon that large brown slab of rock which (according to popular legend) gives Rock Road its name, and which, indeed, is situated in the garden of a prominent member of that very Forum which the unlawful assembly had so rashly interrupted.

Here Bojang and his fellows raised the standard of rebellion and, having posted their sentries, slept the sleep of the unjust.

At eight o'clock the following morning a battalion of the Sarawak Constabulary (which had decided to show the flag in those heathen parts of Kuching which had never hitherto seen a policeman) marched down Rock Road towards Kuching; so, artfully contriving their arrival in the centre of the town at the busiest hour of the morning. In passing the rock garrisoned by Bojang's men, however, they encountered that rare phenomenon of Kuching life, an omnibus; an omnibus so large that it filled the road, driving the Constabulary Band into the wayside ditch. Re-assembling somewhat the worse for wear, the Constabulary were appalled to be met by rapid fire from the catapults of Bojang's men who, profiting by the calamity, occasioned a deadly accuracy of aim, puncturing the big drum in several places.

Not discipline will fail, and with a stoicism characteristic of that admirable body the battalion moved on, their Commander, Mr. Leathery Buttocks, telephoning a report of the incident to Constabulary Headquarters.

The report was, alas, misunderstood, and a company of Sarawak Rangers, mistaking their instructions, forth-

with surrounded and opened fire with tear gas bombs on the Government Printing Office: an unfortunate situation brought to a speedy conclusion by the Government Printer, who addressed the Rangers in such terse and forthright language that they departed on the double down Rock Road, and were not seen again.

Meanwhile the situation had deteriorated, the Rajang had now blocked the whole of Rock Road, and had soon joined by a number of other disaffected persons, who sought to turn these events to their advantage. Indeed, so desperate did the situation at one time appear that it was suggested that the Curator of the Sarawak Museum should be dropped by parachute upon Rajang's camp, with Kalobos, sacrificial bombs, and other implements; a suggestion scouted, I am happy to observe, by the Assistant Director of Civil Aviation, who drew attention to the provisions of the Air Navigation Ordinance, which prohibits landing Castles.

Another suggestion put forward was that the Sarawak Constabulary Band should be used to drive the disaffected mob from their rock, by a rendering of selections from *The Flower of Persimmon*; and a final proposal was that Rajang and his office boys might be mollified if they were allowed to meet St. Thomas's in the next round of the Inter-School Quiz.

These plans come to naught. Before even a state of emergency could be declared a Principal Assistant Secretary Bracken Establishment Close Brackets had found a decision on the relevant file and, summoning the nearest taxi (for there were no buses about) he hastily drove to the Rock and informed the conspirators that their laudible demands had indeed been met. Rajang led these chains for Her Majesty the Queen, and promptly surrendered to a surprised member of the Sarawak Constabulary.

In due course charges were framed with his usual intimacy by Mr. J. James Koundoul, on behalf of the Attorney-General, and within a week Rajang and the rest of the conspirators appeared in the High Court on notice that charges of failing to report their change of address under the National Registration Ordinance, discharging a catapult within one hundred yards of Rock Road, and cruelty to animals, to wit, the big trees and peacocks of the Constabulary Band.

But, as Mr. Justice Bogle observed in sentencing Rajang and four other of the malfactors to detention in the Sarawak Boys' Home, the big question was, Why did they pick on the Secretariat? After all these are, said the learned trial judge, several other buildings in Kuching that need burning down: a concert treated with the contempt it deserved, when the Court of Appeal for Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei (President, Sir Roderic, C.J.) quashed the convictions and gave Rajang and his fellows an award of £500 from the public purse, for services rendered.

All of which explains, I hope, the reaction of that splendid building, the new Secretariat: built, you will notice if ever you pass through Kuching, of fire-proof material, throughout.

I had been hoping that Rajang and a few other Boy Scouts might provide a guard of honour for the opening of the new Secretariat; but my friend the Honourable Mr. Haidhatwain Thacker tells me that a new Secretariat Circular has been issued, as a result of the incidents I have just all too-undoubtedly related, reading, "No more Boy Scouts in the Secretariat."

Which is a pity, because I believe they have a patent electric incandescent in the new building. Just think what the Boy Scouts could do with that.

—d'yaed

[The above story was originally broadcast by Radio Sarawak on July 25.]

Culinary Contretemps

The period since All left may, like Cassi, be divided into three parts.

Let us draw a veil over the first part, although I must say cold sandwiches and biscuits are not at all a bad breakfast, and, after all, Adam's ale was used long before coffee and is cheaper too.

The second part may be designated the Probationary Period of Mrs. Moppo, the Tinsman, the Char, the Daily Woman. During this time there was never a dull moment: how charming, for instance, to come home for a lunch of fried fish to find a charred kipper to be eaten with two carving knives and a steel! It is only fair at this stage to add that the house was never cleaner, spiders fled in dismay, and I took off shoes in reverence at the shining floor.

A feature of the period under review (as they say in official reports) was the interesting variety and the many innovations of table lay-out. The officer resorted to it to be congratulated on the introduction of such novelties as mustard pickle laid on the table with toast and marmalade, and raw cabbage served as garnish with curries. It is only by such bold experiments that progress can be made and the table department lifted out of the rut in which it has been stuck for too long.

Which brings us to the third, and, so far, ultimate, part, which is the period of divided labour between Mrs. Moppo and myself. She does the cooking and I guard to the Culinary Art. What are you laughing at? You haven't tasted my Kinnat Pinnasat; what does it matter which end was stuffed?

It was a good job I had several casserole dishes of varying sizes so that when I found number one too small for all the meat and potatoes I had bought for the Lamsonia Hot Pot I could go on to number two and then to number three, to make room for the onions and ramps.

A tip to other cooks is worth putting in here. Hot Pot tastes much better if you have to wait three hours longer than you expected for it, but don't eat too much at 11.00 p.m. for it sits rather heavy on the stomach.

I'm thinking of starting a cookery class for bachelors and spare widowers. Think of the money you would save by doing your own cooking, not counting the potatoes that went bad because you forgot you had them.

I do need a little instruction myself first, though: for instance will some scholar please tell me how to say in Sino-Ivan "Please put the coffee in the little basket in the top of the percolator and not in the water?"

WTR

W.A.E.

The Story of the Immortal Garai and his Sempit

(as told (more or less) by T.R. Abang of Kumpang Mung in Bating Ai, to N.S. Haidat)

A long time ago there lived a Batin dayak called Garai. One day, when Garai was out hunting in the Klingkang Range with his *ansapir*, or blow-pipe, he was confronted on the path by a very large spirit, of the species known as *Antu Gaya*, also carrying a *ansapir*. Garai was a very brave Dayak, and not to be frightened by man or spirit, so he stood his ground.

"Ha!" said the ants. "You seem to fancy your prowess with a *ansapir*. I propose a little competition. Let us see who can stick his dart into that rock, and whoever is successful will kill the other."

So saying, the *Antu Gaya* indicated a sheer cliff of sandstone, such as are common in the Klingkang Range. Garai thought fast. It was clear that there was no way in which to avoid the challenge.

"Very well," he said. "You go first."

"No, no," said Anto Gays, "after you."

"On the contrary, as challenger, it is your privilege and duty to go first. In fact I insist on it."

While the ants were selecting three of his strongest, fittest and sharpest darts, Gani resumed himself, and disappeared into the bushes. It did not take him long to find a *pelelat* tree, from which he tapped some of the sticky rubber, and wound it round the tip of his dart before re-appearing at the side of the ants.

The ants shot his three darts first. Alas for him! although his darts were ants darts, and much stronger and sharper than anything that could be produced by humans, still they shattered on the bare rock. Gani's darts, being tipped by the sticky *gajah pelelat*, stuck on.

"Ah," said Gani. "It seems I'm the winner. You can see my darts have all stuck in. Well, nothing remains to be done but to kill you."

The blistering ants was immediately transformed into a crying crowd.

"No, no, no! Please don't kill me!" "Why not? It was part of the bargain. I'm perfectly sure that if I had lost, you would have killed me."

"No, please don't! I'll give you a lot of gold if you spare my life."

"Oh, I don't want any gold, I'm quite a rich man, and in any case there's no business near here where I can spend it."

"Well, I'll give you a lot of jars and gongs."

"Oh, I've got plenty."

"Well then, some medicine to make you a strong walker."

"I already am a strong walker. I can go farther and faster than anyone else in this area, at my rate. No, I think it will be simpler to kill you."

"No, please! I'll give you a chance that will make you irresistible to girls." "What do you think I am? I'm not a bachelor, but a happily married man, and when I travel to other villages, you may make use of I have plenty of sweet-beans. Come along, I'll just kill you, and then I can get on with my hunting. You've already delayed me enough as it is."

"Wait! I'll give you eternal youth! You'll never get old! Never die! What do you think of that? You'll never have to sit on the house, unable to work, dependent on your sons for food! But only spare my life!"

"Well, that might be worth while. If you can make me stay young for ever, I won't kill you. But hurry up, I must get on."

The Anto Gays produced a small knife, which he invited Gani to swallow, and assured him that it would not give him indigestion, so Gani did so.

"Now," said the ants, "you will never get old. But if ever you tell anybody this means for your everlasting youth and of how you put me to shame with your accomplice, then you will immediately die."

With this the ants made off.

So Gani went on working and hunting from day to day, and year after year, and never got any older. When his wife got too old, with her consent he took a young maiden as his new bride, and continued thus until he had collected seven wives. By this time, of course, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren were older than he was, and they were very puzzled at this, and often asked him the reason, but always he replied that he might not tell them. One day, however, some of his descendants came to him again and said:

"Do tell us, great-great-grandfather, why it is you never get any older, and why it is that you are younger than we are."

"I may not tell you, my dears, or else I shall straight-away die."

"Oh, come on, great-great-grandfather, do tell us! Surely you are fed up with having lived so long, marrying seven wives, and planting padi year after year.

And, frankly, we're a bit fed up with having you about the place all the time, it isn't natural. So even if you have to die, do tell us and satisfy our curiosity."

"All right then, I will. But you needn't think I am going to tell you now. We must have a big banquet as a fitting end to my long life."

So pigs and fowls were fattened and killed, and meat brewed, and *puter* cooked, and all Gani's descendants and friends were summoned to a big *keparan*. When everyone had eaten and drunk their fill, and the groups and drums had finished beating, Gani began his story, and told it just as I have been telling it to you.

As he finished the tale the knife he had swallowed so many years ago flew out at his throat, there was a flash of lightning, and he was turned into a stone, shaped like a man but smaller. This stone, *homa jurai*, it is said, is still kept by the people of Mandalai in Indonesian Borneo, not far from the border, in a locked chest. Not unreasonably, it possesses extraordinary medicinal and therapeutic properties.

Suburbanalia

Gardening News

This month we are going to plant some seeds! First of all, rice—*maah*. Well, in Ridgeway there isn't any, so we are forced to use a substitute and about the only available substitute on Ridgeway is ground. No one would pretend it is a very happy alternative but as the Latin maxim puts it *Si nihil melius substituitur est, substituitur tamen potest!*

The ground should be broken up as finely as possible before putting into seed boxes. A granite crusher is the most suitable equipment and fortunately there is one in Sabayan.

When the seeds and seed boxes are ready take them down to the dockyard where you should be able to borrow an electric riveter. Feed the seeds into the riveter and fire them into your seed box. It is best to do this through the bottom of the box as this gives the seeds some idea of which direction they are supposed to grow in and at the same time provides holes for drainage. Rather like some colonial types, seeds can be very obstinate and are permanently thirsty. Once sown, seeds require care and nourishment: watch out for any weeds or insects, and as soon as they appear burn them off with a blow lamp; at the same time with your foot hand water liberally to encourage the seedlings. The Municipal Fire Service should be able to supply water under pressure for this purpose. Your blow lamp will only prove effective against the smaller insects; for the larger pests you cannot beat a double barreled shot gun.

Before closing these Gardening News for the month I must let you know of two items of the greatest interest for Ridgeway garden lovers. The first concerns the production, in limited quantity, of a most remarkable fertilizer—in brief known, it is understood, as *FWD No. 1*. Don't be mystified by the letters "FWD": they are just some simple trade monogram for "Fosterly Wood's Disappoint"; and the figure "No. 1" doubtless has reference to the fact that this is their best effort in this direction. The exact composition of this material is a closely guarded secret and no one seems to know quite how it works, but the results are certainly staggering. All you have to do is to sprinkle a few handfuls lightly over the area to be cultivated, roll it in with something which is good at rolling—such as a roller—and in a few days you will find paddler coats, strip lighting and paddling pools springing up all over the place! Be careful, though, not to exceed the manufacturer's recommended quantities or you may find your paddler coat coming out as a full size tennis court, or even an American square dancing emporium!

The other item of news concerns the production of a new type of compost. Up to recently it has always been municipal compost but now we are able to an-

cover the properties of judicial compass. You, at last an answer has been found as to what, do with all those old wigs, gowns and bands you see about the place. It isn't only wigs, gowns and bands, of course, that go into the compass, but they are the mainstay. Add a few unobtrusive soft hard rollers (I know a good source of supply!) together with some long overbite serrated judgments and you have a pretty potent mixture. Before use, however, it should be thoroughly squashed (quite easy if you know how!) and then left to simmer for a few weeks.

Smokers and Smokers?

Accumulating problems have of late crept into the Ridge-wayer way of life and the peaceful pursuit of taking the children to school has now become indeed a glorious game of chance. But there are rules! Any number of players (usually male) can take part provided they have some form of transport. The whole object of the game is the each player to arrive at his place of business exactly on time, neither early nor late—in other words you must "know the exact number required to get in". But—and this is where the snag comes in *en route*—he has to shed all his handiaps (e.g. wires, children etc.) at their correct places.

The start (Square 1) is virtually the junction of Ridge-way and Penang Road, but you don't have to throw a 6 to get off or anything like that: in fact you can start any time you like and even in any direction you like. The first objective is "Lodge Preparatory School" where you drop off the children. The route is fraught with hazards—e.g. "Long line of coolies carrying plying across—lose 2 turns"; and "unexpected ditch—lose 2 springs and most of your back axle". But there are also compensations: "Road closed notice left up by mistake—proceed direct to 'Back Road'; and "Tree has blown your horn at exactly the right moment and the 4 cyclists in front have all fallen into the ditch—count double for the next 2 turns".

Most players sooner or late make use of "Back Road" but this is not obligatory and there are other routes. Some players turn right at "Temple Court" but beware of falling on the square marked "Club" ("Inevitable drink for drink—lose 4 turns and count backwards for 2 more"). The alternative route also has its perils, for instance on "Sphinx Circuit" "Collision with 5th watchman—go back to "PWD Garage" for repairs".

Before each player can finish he must shed all his "handiaps". At this stage of the game there are usually only "wires", but each wire must be dropped at her own correct place of business otherwise there are heavy penalties.... Ah yes!—it's a great game and full of the most interesting possibilities! P.S. Women players can take part, except on weekends.

PROVISION

The Museum

Straightening One's River

With the recently increasing (and belated) interest in the upland interior of Borneo, something should be said about the irrigation possibilities of these areas.

Large areas of flat or flatish land with deep-flowing rivers fed by small but elaborate systems of brackish draining hillside and slopes lend themselves, clearly, to water control. Such control is very much more difficult in steep areas like those which cover a large part of the interior.

The central uplands are often even more readily irrigable than the lowlands. The use of water in the latter is indeed primitive in many parts of the coastal plain. On the other hand the Kolahit of north-east Sarawak, the "Ponak" Muruts of adjacent N.W. Indonesian Borneo and the Dusun from about Mt. Kinabalu south in North Borneo, have long practiced irrigation, sometimes on an extensive and very skilful scale.

Travels between 1945 and 1952 in the Kolahit country have also disclosed a series of very ancient unimproved valleys which contain pre-historic irrigation systems.

How well these can be worked out by native peoples is seldom realised. The Kolahits have a sort of eye for water slopes and ditch lines, rather like a good golfer has an eye for a lie or a head-watcher can identify a small black object 50 yards away by what one great naturalist has called "raz"—its indelible angle.

On the other hand, how easy it is for civilized man-made to come unstuck in this fascinating game has been illustrated several times in the recent history of Sarawak. The famous effort of Mr. H. B. Crocker on the Sungai Sarawak (2nd Division) in 1906 has been immortalised in local *paseng* singing, happily recorded by Mr. W. C. B. Wilson in the *Jaya Gazette*. Crocker's dyke blocked the river and shortened a long arm. It doing so it cut the bosom and kampong into two separate sections.

Much more effective was a Japanese-period masterpiece of this sort on the Samarahan River, between the Selang and Sarawak rivers. This was mainly a voluntary effort of the local people to cut across a narrow neck and eliminate a very long tenuous, tide-water loop in this very loopy river. The result has been a great success.

Back at the upland end, if you travel down to the lowlands with full people you will often hear them calling the great loops in the lower Baran or Limbang. They should listen to the journey. There is a favourite Kolahit *wis-wisak*:

"What a lory lot here. They never straighten their rivers."

For in the headwaters of the Baran—where it is still a big river—they frequently cut through co-beds and take out links. They regard their rivers as their servants, not masters. Decisions of importance on rich harvests are—or were until very recently—reached by a mass vote to open up a fresh avenue as follows. The river will do the rest, provided the spot has been well chosen.

In the process, stone fish weirs were often made—as is also done handsomely by one North Borneo group living just north of Keningau on plateau-type country. Local *en C.D. & W.*

Attempts to extend irrigation are highly desirable. Particularly into the over-populated areas of the south-west. These measures need to draw on native experience at least as much as outside expertise. The same applies, of course, to matters like suga or tobacco cultivation, pisciculture, forest structure. Sometimes 5100 of the right local know-how can be worth 51,000 or 510,000 C.D. & W. funds for imported technology or research.

Edible Swine Nests

The swiffins which by their native produce the half-cups beloved of the Chinese gourmet in soup (threaded) richly inhabit caves wherever there are limestone hills in Borneo. There are two qualities of nest, "white" (using 50c.25 a kat currently in Customs returns) and "black" (50c.00 a kat). These nests are made by two different kinds of swiffin, hardly distinguishable except in the hand. The "black" nests have a higher proportion of the swiffin's own feathers, the "white" being nearly pure saliva.

The exact forms of swiffins—no relation to swallows—remain very uncertain. Mr. E. Banks while Curator got valuable information and first put the collection and marketing of nests on an orderly footing based on scientific fact. But since then gaps in knowledge and difficulties in planning the collection of nests—without reducing either the wild population or the market value—have been encountered. And the possibility of increasing and extending the population of "white" nests has arisen; at present these are only known from a few caves in Sarawak and North Borneo.

The Museum is carrying out a survey of caves to try and help in this. Through August a unit has been

working the caves in the Serian district, in collaboration with the Geological Survey Dept. Work has also begun in the Bua district. It is hoped to extend to Niah in October. This sort of work is necessarily slow, but fun to do. Some of it can be much helped by amateurs interested in birds or insects. Offers of assistance would be welcomed, advice and equipment supplied by us.

Cave Archaeology

Linked to the above, archaeological work in caves is being slowly extended. The first Hornio cave excavation was made by the present Curator with the Director of the Raffles Museum (Mr. M. W. F. Tweedley) in 1949. The published report attracted wide interest. Since then, attention has been much focussed on delta sites. It is hoped, however, to return to cave-work shortly; and that Mr. Tweedley, fresh from important cave finds (3,000 year old burials etc.) in Malaya, will again be able to co-operate.

Malaya & Singapore Museum.

The Curator was able to see something of recent archaeological work in Malaya during an all too brief tour as far north as Taiping (Perak), in conjunction with Dr. Gale Slevoking of the Malaysian Museum Service.

All through Malaya there is a rapid expansion of museums and new ones will soon cover every State. A big increase in funds is also planned for the Raffles Museum, Singapore, with new and up-to-date equipment and extended premises. British Borneo looks like getting left behind in discharging a responsibility which is bound to be more and more demanded of government as education and development go on in S.E. Asia.

An American View

The broad responsibility of a museum service—which can be discharged in no other way—it will state in the latest report of the Carnegie Institution, one of the great American Museum bodies. It sets a goal no Asian Museum has yet achieved, but which can be the only worthwhile goal of even the smallest; that (Carnegie writes):

"WHOSE MUSEUM?"

An expert is a man who can take his facts raw, full strength, and in large doses. For such men every scientific institution maintains a 'specialized' information service by granting access to their specimens, study collections, and technical reports on its research. In this conformity of the human few, all museums are alike so far as their resources permit.

For most human beings (the lay public) a scientific fact lacks meaning unless it bears some visible relation to the rest of life. Nature shows no sharp lines of separation. Science separates in order to understand. Art joins in a new unity what science takes apart. A synthesis of all three is the unique contribution a museum can make to the society it serves."

Gifts

Even if as rich as a Carnegie, all Museums must partly depend on public interest in sending specimens, literature and so on.

Quite a harvest of contributions must be acknowledged this month. Notable is a *Rhinoceros Hornbill*, alive, from Mr. W. O. Steele, Education Officer, Singapore. This is being kept privately at present, until it links up to coping with the many—and sometimes slightly unkind—people who go and look at the live animals behind the Museum. To cage such a fine bird seems quite unobtainable.

Mr. K. F. Michalukiewicz has sent a fine Praying Mantis, closely resembling an orchid, from Mier, and Mr. W. C. B. Wilson, a beautiful *Crotalus* snake from Sarawak. Mr. A. Ladgard and Mr. T. G. Coghlan of B.C.L. kindly brought in a poisonous cobra snake

(snake packed) and our old friend Father Aicher sent three nice serpents from Dulis.

Mr. Kho Shui Kim presented a good new White-collared Kingfisher (*Halcyon chloris*).

To these and other benefactors we are grateful—and hope for more.

Spide

Sad to relate, news comes that the great Orang-utan presented to the London Zoo by Mr. A. P. H. Griffin some years ago, their star exhibit, has died in a pulmonary epidemic which has recently closed "The Monkey House". Spide was a bit of home-bromide for jungle-minded Sarawakians in London.

Contributed

Cross Word Puzzles

The Editors have received no replies to their enquiry in last month's issue about these puzzles. They therefore assume that readers are not interested and the series is discontinued.

Notice

WANTED.—Back numbers of the Sarawak Gazette, bound or unbound. Offer.—A. K. G. MORRISON

Ruching Market Price List

26th July to 26th August, 1954.

RICE—(per gram)			
Local White Best, Milled	..	..	11.80
Local, White Milled	..	..	12.00
Item A	..	..	12.10
Item B	..	..	12.00
" C	..	..	11.92
" Broken	..	..	11.82
SUGAR—(per kant)			
New, White	..	..	70
" Brown	..	..	60
Nipah Sugar	..	..	25
SALT—(per kant)			
Coarse	..	..	10
Fine	..	..	12
Nipah	..	..	70
FLOUR AND BREAD—			
Wheat Flour, per kant	..	..	50
Best per kant	..	..	50
Best per kant large	..	..	50
MILK—(per tin)			
Milkmaid	..	..	70
Fresh	..	..	80
EGGS—(each)			
Duck, Fresh	..	..	18
" Salted	..	..	15
Fowl	..	..	18
EDIBLE FATS—(per kant)			
Coconut Oil	..	..	70
Pork Fat No. 1	..	..	120
" " 2	..	..	140
Ghee	..	..	160
PORE—(per kant)			
Lean No. 1	..	..	180
Lean with fat " 2	..	..	180
BEEF AND OTHER MEATS—(per kant)			
Mutton (Australian)	..	..	180
Beef, steak	..	..	100
Beef, curry meat	..	..	160
Buffalo No. 1	..	..	100
" Curry meat	..	..	160
Kambing (Hagip)	..	..	200

POULTRY—(per kat)

Capons	...	...	...	1 2.60
Chinese Cocks	...	...	...	2.20
Chinese Pullets	...	...	...	2.40
Chinese Hens	...	...	...	1.90
Duck Fowls	...	...	...	2.00
Duck	...	...	...	1.90
Muscovy	...	...	...	2.10
Cross-bred	...	...	...	2.10
Geese	...	...	...	2.10

FISH—(per kat)

Fresh Fish No. 1	...	...	...	1.60
" " " 2	...	...	...	.80
" " " 3	...	...	...	.40
Plaice	...	...	...	1.60
" " " 1	...	...	...	1.00
Cook No. 1	...	...	...	1.20
" " " 2	...	...	...	.80
Salted Fish	...	...	...	1.40
" " " 1	...	...	...	1.00
" " " 2	...	...	...	.60
" " " 3	...	...	...	1.40

VEGETABLES—(per kat)

Bangkok Green Beans	...	...	...	.10
Beans	...	...	...	.17
Bean Sprouts	...	...	...	.30
Cabbage, imported	...	...	...	.70
Changaiok Mung	...	...	...	.20
Duck Marrow	...	...	...	.14
Beaufort Potatoes	...	...	...	.15
" " " 2	...	...	...	.30
Beaufort Beans	...	...	...	.28
French Beans	...	...	...	.44
Garlic, fresh	...	...	...	.60
Kaohong Potatoes	...	...	...	.50
Kaohong	...	...	...	.17
Kaohong Beans	...	...	...	.34
Katoh (Chinese)	...	...	...	.40
Kewla	...	...	...	.31
Kelung	...	...	...	.15
Kumbar	...	...	...	.14
Lahu	...	...	...	.12
Ladies' Fingers	...	...	...	.40
Letuce (per kat)	...	...	...	.60
Lotus (Chinese radish)	...	...	...	.24
Lotus, salted, imported	...	...	...	.70
Onions, Bombay	...	...	...	.30

Onions, small	...	...	...	1 2.40
Peas, Bengal	...	...	...	.30
Pea (Bitter ground)	...	...	...	.38
Redwood beans, salted	...	...	...	.40
Tring (chickpea)	...	...	...	.31
Yams	...	...	...	.10
Cassia (bean)	...	...	...	.20
Caper	...	...	...	.24
Chilies (fresh)	...	...	...	.30
" (green)	...	...	...	.22
Scotchman, imported	...	...	...	.47
Scotchman, local	...	...	...	.30
Tomatoes	...	...	...	.31
Tomatoes, fresh	...	...	...	1.90

TEA—

Tea, Lipton per lb.	...	...	...	1.70
" Chinese per packet	...	...	...	.80

COFFEE—(per kat)

Raw, Java No. 1	...	...	...	2.80
" " " 2	...	...	...	2.50

FRUIT—

Pineapple (Urban)	...	per kat	...	.12
Pineapple (Rural)	...	each	12 to 18 to	.12
Florida Pineapple	...	each 12 to	...	.40
Pineapples	...	" "	...	.20

MISCELLANEOUS—

Beer Card	...	8 square pieces	...	.20
" " " " (white)	...	per piece	...	.15
" " " " (yellow)	...	" "	...	.23
Kerosene Oil	...	per tin	...	5.40
" " " "	...	per bottle	...	.21
Charcoal	...	per picul	...	4.00
" semi-covered	...	" "	...	3.50
Beans (Kilang)	...	lot, (1) 10.00, (2) .70, (3)	...	.50
Bunches	...	per kat	...	.60
Dried prawn	...	" "	...	2.50
Coconut, fresh	...	each	...	.20
Baka Wood	...	per panjang	...	27.00
Cigarettes:				
Plains	...	1 stick for	...	.12
Lawson "A"	...	" "	...	.12
Capitan	...	" "	...	.11
Rough Rider	...	" "	...	.10
Star Express	...	1 stick for	...	.05

PUSTAKA
NEGERI
SARAWAK

SAJIBAN

BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED



Municipalities are often handicapped by inadequate road machinery. So, it often happens that, when funds become available, there is a strong tendency to purchase machines of larger capacity than the job requires.

Earthmoving machines made by Caterpillar are designed to utilize all their horsepower in useful work. When you purchase equipment from us you get the correct machine for the job at hand.

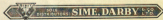
As an example, the No. 212 Motor Grader, a 50-horsepower machine, is capable of building and maintaining roads for any city or town. It does the same quality work as a larger machine.

This machine costs less than larger graders and operates for less money during its long and useful life.

We will be pleased to furnish complete specifications on the Caterpillar No. 212 Motor Grader.

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INCORPORATED 1925 CHICAGO, ILL.



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MOTOR GRADERS
EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT

CAT. 12/53



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The most complete selection of matched earthmoving equipment

Track-type Tractors - 5 sizes
32 to 120 drawbar horsepower

Wheel-type Tractors - 3 sizes
115 to 225 horsepower

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4.5 to 27 cu. yds. (heaped capacity)

Wagons - 2 sizes
14 and 25 cu. yds.
(heaped capacity)

Bulldozers - 21 sizes
Hydraulic and cable controlled

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Motor Graders - 3 sizes
50 to 100 horsepower

Cable Controls - 4 sizes
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Hydraulic Controls - 3 sizes
Front and rear-mounted

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Agricultural Loader
For D2 Tractor

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52 to 500 horsepower

Diesel Electric Sets - 12 sizes
19 to 215 kilowatt

Diesel Marine Engines - 12 sizes
38 to 400 horsepower

We are the authorized dealer for Caterpillar equipment in this area

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(6-5)

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SALESPERSON

SALESPERSON

Sarawak Gazette

KUCHING, Tuesday, August 31st, 1954

NO. 1158

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All subscriptions are payable in advance and will not be renewed unless notice of renewal is given.

Changes of address should be notified to the Government Printing Office in writing.

All communications intended for insertion in the Sarawak Gazette must be directed to the Editor, Kuching. They should reach the Office at least ten days before the publication of each issue.

Letters and other contributions must be addressed to the Editor's name and privately to the Editor.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications, or to give reasons for not inserting them.

Residents of the Colonies will confer an obligation by forwarding to the Office early intelligence of all matters of general interest in their respective neighbourhoods.

Advertisement Rates

Payable in advance

(Columns width 11", length 10")

	1	2	3	4	12
	month	month	month	month	month
1 Column ...	\$ 4.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 48.00
2 Columns ...	8.00	16.00	24.00	32.00	96.00
3 Columns ...	12.00	24.00	36.00	48.00	144.00
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Small advertisements 28 cents per line with minimum charge of \$1. For every December Occurrence \$1.

A.R.—10 cents to cover Post Commission should be added to all cheques drawn on banks outside Sarawak.

SEPTEMBER 1954

English	Chinese		Mandarin		MOON PHASES		Hua Wena	
	Days of Week	Month	Days	Month	No. Five Quarter Day Full Moon	175 Last Quarter 275 New Moon	A.M. 5. m.	P.M. 5. m.
W	1	8	3	.....	4	.....	7 25	7 40
Th	2	.....	6	.....	5	.....	7 31	8 25
F	3	.....	7	.....	6	.....	8 05	9 04
S	4	.....	8	.....	7	.....	8 42	9 48
S	5	.....	9	.....	8	.....	9 39	10 41
M	6	.....	10	.....	9	.....	9 46	11 46
Tu	7	.....	11	.....	10	.....	10 40	—
W	8	.....	12	.....	11	.....	11 30	—
Th	9	.....	13	.....	12	.....	2 01	3 07
F	10	.....	14	.....	13	.....	3 09	2 19
S	11	.....	15	.....	14	.....	3 54	3 23
S	12	.....	16	.....	15	.....	4 33	4 19
M	13	.....	17	.....	16	.....	5 12	5 12
Tu	14	.....	18	.....	17	.....	5 48	6 03
W	15	.....	19	.....	18	.....	6 28	6 54
Th	16	.....	20	.....	19	.....	7 04	7 45
F	17	.....	21	.....	20	.....	7 43	8 38
S	18	.....	22	.....	21	.....	8 23	9 36
S	19	.....	23	.....	22	.....	9 07	10 41
M	20	.....	24	.....	23	.....	9 59	11 35
Tu	21	.....	25	.....	24	.....	11 05	—
W	22	.....	26	.....	25	.....	1 16	12 30
Th	23	.....	27	.....	26	.....	2 36	1 44
F	24	.....	28	.....	27	.....	3 34	3 00
S	25	.....	29	.....	28	.....	4 17	4 04
S	26	.....	30	.....	29	.....	4 50	4 54
M	27	9	1	30	5 19	5 36
Tu	28	2	1	5 46	6 13
W	29	3	2	6 12	6 52
Th	30	4	3	6 38	7 38

-time for a
Tiger



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The **BORNEO** *Company Limited*

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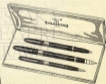
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CLEAN

Sheaffer's **SNORKEL** pen

**POINT NEVER IMMersed —
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Only yesterday, a pen had to be filled by dipping deep in ink. Point and barrel had to be wiped clean. But Sheaffer's new Snorkel Pen has banished that bother forever. Its magic tube reaches out to drink the ink, then withdraws when its job is done. Flushed clean with every filling, sealed against leakage. It's an important new invention. See it today!



*Tube extends
to fill—
then retracts!*

THE BORNED
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