

Sarawak Gazette

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The Sarawak Gazette

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31st, 1951

The Uru and the Ashes

Much serious thought is these days bestowed upon the future of representative government in Sarawak, and as independence approaches the mechanics of a constitution engage the attention of all who are concerned for an orderly and democratic way of life; the twin evils of military dictatorship and continued anarchy have of late been as terribly demonstrated elsewhere, that essay are discarded but a state of such fragile cohesion as Sarawak be either welded by the and sword or irreparably shattered in anarchy. It is a matter of course that there be evolved a system which shall equitably represent all the various elements in the state and shall at the same time provide the basis for a stable government, without which society dissolves.

Many are content to advocate the too facile solution of transplanting bodily the political institutions of highly industrialized European states to Sarawak with its sparse, scattered and divergent rural communities. Yet a system of government adopted for a close-knit urban society can all too easily break down in those where applied to small isolated communities, often of widely divergent background and interest.

Parliamentary government in England has developed around the two-party system, and this in positive has functioned satisfactorily; the character of the two parties has changed with changing conditions, and the interplay of forces has provided at once representative and stable government. But let it never be forgotten that for the last century the two parties have been actuated by a common purpose, namely the development and promotion of British industry; their divergent views as to how the profits should be shared did not obscure the fundamental identity of interest.

Sarawak, on the other hand, lacks any essential cohesion; it is a purely artificial creation not yet a century old; a series of isolated river basins with no other natural link but the sea; its frontiers might be drawn between one or other as chance or accident dictated. Further, the scattered population of these basins is marked by racial, linguistic, cultural and economic diversities. Can it seriously be supposed that the constitution of a closely integrated individual state will function at all in so atomized a community? The facile solution of transplanting the British constitution as it stands to Sarawak invites only disaster; it is difficult to see how it could provide a government at once representative and efficient. Failure to provide a representative government may carry the penalty of bloodshed; the interests denied fair representation through the constitution may have recourse to violence; failure to provide an efficient government is something which a country so poor and backward as Sarawak cannot afford without relapsing into barbarism.

The two-party system is seen by many as the panacea, but can two monolithic parties provide that adequate representation without which democratic government will become impossible? Can two parties give voice to the needs of all these widely disparate communities? Can they command the confidence of such divergent elements and so keep them within the fabric of ordered government, thus preventing them from seeking redress by unconstitutional means?

It is generally accepted that the basic unit of representation will be the constituency, but how far have attempted the unwarranted exercise of drawing hypothetical constituencies on the map of Sarawak, and these few find cause for alarm in their experiments. If a legislature of some fifty members be envisaged, then however the boundaries of the fifty constituencies be drawn they will be found to embrace minority groups, which will never be able to make their voices heard. If the constituencies be modified to give the minority expression, then there will be an outcry of jerry-mandering from the larger groups at whose expense time changes are made. It is obvious that whoever draws the constituency boundaries in the first instance will set the pattern of representation and fix the character of government for the next few decades, and this in such wise that neither could be changed with facility within the constitutional framework. This would indeed be a most dangerous thing, and could well bring into disrepute the whole concept of democratic government.

Might not a solution be found in proportional representation? This constitutional form is little used in the more highly industrialized states, where the two-party system is found to function satisfactorily, but it has many advantages for a country which lacks cohesion and where a major consideration is to ensure that there be fair representation for various interests. Applied to Sarawak it might well provide a government which commanded the strongest body of popular support.

Suppose, for the sake of argument, that there is in Sarawak universal adult suffrage; that every man and woman of twenty-one and over has the vote; this in practice means that every man will have two votes,

for his wife will naturally vote as directed. Suppose, then, an electorate of 200,000 persons, and suppose that they all vote. Envisage a legislative council of fifty seats, so that each representative would speak for 4,000 voters. Under the British system the country would be divided into fifty constituencies each of approximately 4,000 electors, but how to do this while ensuring fair representation for all the communities and interests would tax, if it did not surpass, the wit of man. Under the system of proportional representation the country would be treated as a single constituency with fifty seats, and the electors would go to the polls not to vote for any individual, but for some party or other. The fifty seats would then be divided up amongst the various parties proportionately to the number of votes gained in units of 4,000.

Such a system gives scope for wide representation, for any group or party which could muster 4,000 votes could capture a seat in the legislature and make its voice heard: thus a Fishermen's Party could command a small but solid block, as could also a Pepper Planter's Party, seropag parties which could not obtain the minimum 10,000, such as Cockfights, Necromancers, and the Pass Port Development Party, could pool their votes and put in one member bonded in advance to promote the interests of all three. Needless to say, if only half the electorate vote, then 2,000 votes would command a seat, and so proportionately. Thus adequate representation would be given to all the elements that go to make up the mosaic of Sarawak life.

It is often argued that the system of proportional representation, by giving votes to a multiplicity of parties weakens the executive, for governments tend to be coalitions of two or more parties, which by bargaining have agreed upon a common programme. This is no bad thing, for it means that the widest possible range of need is met. It is sometimes forgotten that the political programmes of the major European parties are worked out only in the most farcical contests between rival interests within the parties, many of which are in fact coalitions of very diverse groups.

The main consideration in Sarawak's constitutional development must be to secure fair and adequate representation for all the various elements that make up the body politic. Some form of proportional representation might well provide the solution, but some workable solution must be found, else it will be discovered that the voting was confined but the ethos of democracy.

Rural Prospect

Although several degrees south of the equator, western Java enjoys (or should I say experiences) the same sort of climate as Sarawak. There is usually plenty of rain (my school atlas puts Bandung just in the zone of heavy rainfall—over 200 cm. per annum), but the yearly cycle is dominated by the monsoon which brings a wetter season roughly coincident with the northern winter. The change is not very marked. If pressed people will say, in a very Sarawakian way, that the rainy season is due to start next month, or that it is already in full swing, or that it should have begun in September but failed to materialise this year. What is wonderful and new to see is the control exercised by man over this rain after it has reached the earth. The Indonesian farmer seems to have a real understanding of water, a feel for its natural inclination, and with hard work a thousand ways of making this water serve him.

Walking on the hillside above Bandung town, I am constantly near water, at every level, crossing over and under itself, and at times, it almost seems, flowing uphill. Here, maybe, a double stream follows the con-

flow, channelled in a narrow dyke and tapped where it is needed through bamboo pipes. Then, in organised cascades, the water runs through cuts in the earth banks that bound each terrace, of flooding the tiny fields in turn. In a hollow, low dam contains it into a series of ponds well stocked with fish. Through the centre of the ordered landscape, the source of all the water, the mountain stream itself, has run a deep ravine in the red earth, crossed by light bamboo bridges high above the narrow torrent when the elegant pied bird, the mountain forktail, flies whirling from boulder to boulder in a secret world of its own.

On each side the valley is patterned by the terraced rice fields, just flanking all round the world. The bunds and terraces themselves must represent the concerted labour of years, and their management demands constant skill and attention. But the results are impressive. In this month, at Christmas approach, in one small valley I see rice in every single stage of maturation, from ripe ears or dwarfed stands of harvested stubble to seedlings newly transplanted into ploughed and harrowed soil. The farming of these fields is continuous, without a break for boom and bust, but everywhere two and in some places three crops are possible each year off one patch.

At harvest, as in Sarawak, the stems are cut single, about a hand's span below the ear; but instead of being dropped casually into a long basket, they are tied in neat bunches and are carried home, sun dried, and stacked or sold, well bunched.

Above Bandung, my host's garden is terraced and irrigated in the same way as his paddy fields. Because the ground is fairly high, about 5,000 feet above sea level, temperate plants flourish as well as the tropical kinds familiar in Sarawak. He has roses, peonies, potamoias, azaleas, South African violets and several big composites, as well as orchids, bougainvilleas, cactus, and lilacs from the lowlands; rubber, bamboo, papaya, mandarin and grapefruit, strawberries and, on low land, a near little mulberry which makes good jam; the more prominent vegetables are lettuce, cabbages, beans and various gourds. Very little of the food set on his table need be purchased. The Sundanese eat a lot of vegetables, which they cook in a multitude of delicious ways; and if meat is scarce and expensive, beans in various forms (fresh, soaked, and served) supply plenty of protein in the diet.

We also drink fresh milk here, from a herd of sixty-old cows. These are large black and white animals, looking like ancestral unimproved (in the agricultural sense) Friesian ones than anything else. They are permanently staked under cover in three lofty concrete-floored cowsheds, with the ubiquitous clear running water fed ingeniously into a series of wells at convenient points between the rows of cattle. The cows and the cowshed are washed down twice daily and the effluent, carefully channelled, is valuable fertilizer for the terraces below where rice or maize are grown.

A cow's life is simple and routine. She is milked at 3 a.m., bathed and milked by hand. The cowshed is staked down and she breakfasts, as she will lunch and dine, off whole fresh young maize plants supplemented by a cooked swirl of rice bran and taproot root. Second milking begins twelve hours later. Each cow's yield is roughly measured in the pail with a dipstick, and then filtered through two layers of clean cotton cloth into churns. The average yield appears to be under ten litres a day, which is poor by English standards. The milk is sold wholesale at 11-12 Rp. a litre (=80 c. at the official rate of exchange), which is expensive by English standards but compares well with the price I paid for fresh milk at Singapore airport. Fresh milk is also retained in Djakarta, at sea level, from cows kept in the mountains, and I am sure a dairy herd would also be possible in lowland Sarawak.

At the bottom of the Bandang garden, again fed by a constant stream, are a group of shallow pools reserved for fish culture. The two most popular fish are goldfish (*platy cornis*) and a sort known locally as *ikan masjid* (Indonesian spelling). Both grow very well in the better lowlands here; there are for instance hundreds of fresh water pools for their cultivation on the flats around Djantara, providing fish for the city market. Both kinds are self propagating. The goldfish lay eggs which must be collected and reared in special hatchingeries, to protect them from their cannibal parents. But the masjid look after their young themselves, making the babies into their mouths for safety when danger threatens. Both kinds are very quick growing and attain a saleable size a couple of months after birth. They can thus be reared as an intercrop with rice, while the masjid like fallow and flooded between one harvest and the next sowing. If there is enough water, no food need be given to these fish. But many families also keep both kinds, and carp (*carassius*) as well, in the smaller pools or tanks which supply household water. Here the fish thrive on river mud.

The average holding of land in Java is small, and with the projected land reforms will tend to decrease further as estates are broken up. With the current political disturbances, too, some good farming land has had to be abandoned, so that the country has become a net importer of rice. But in places like the fertile valleys surrounding Bandang, where the Sundanese farmer leads his traditional life in peace, even a small acreage can yield rich and varied harvests.

LESLIE MURRAY

Niah Caves Project: 1961 on?

So many people ask nowadays: how are you getting on at Niah? What do you expect to do (as yet) there now? It was therefore be useful to state, at this stage, more simply what has been done and needs to be done on this now considerable project, against a brief general background.

The Niah caves have been well known to mankind for a very long time, of course—at least 50,000 years, as our latest excavations have shown. We have given a rather full account of the history and general prehistory of the caves in the *Sarawak Museum Journal*, Vol. VIII, 1958, No. 12, which may be consulted at most universities in Sarawak and in over 1,000 libraries and other institutions abroad. (Copies, \$3.00 each, available for most of the 14 post-war issues, apply to Museum, Kuching).

I first visited Niah myself with my friend Hag Yapp, —now Tuan Miah's and then attached to the Museum—in 1947, when I was a new hire as Curator, and no one had yet done any archaeology in Borneo. In the following years, we did our essential work in caves round Iba (not always very rewarding) and delta sites round Sandohong—still under constant study and very rewarding indeed; but primarily "young", that is of Neolithic-Flinted-Islandic (in that order) Borneo type.

Niah was long our ideal. But it could not be worked until we had first, trained staff, second, better local communications, third, much better general finances. It is a difficult place to get to, and for various reasons very costly to dig in—between six and seven times as expensive as a similar cave in the Day or Seletic districts.

It was not until Shell started drilling in the Niah River that access became more ready. When they failed to find oil at 10,000 ft., it was not so difficult to convince them that our smaller search, in inches, richly deserved support. This help, through the goodness of Mr. R. E. Hales, c.s.a., and his co-directors,

was forthcoming in 1954—when Shell gave sufficient money to make a first dig on medium-scale possible. The then Director of the Malaya Museum, Singapore, Sarawak's good friend Michael Trindler, also lent his personal, skilled resources and other technical assistance from his Museum.

In 1954 we only dug in one month, the West Month of the Great Cave. This is a huge place; and the initial results proved richer than I had dared hope. Had we then realized, though, that this was to be only one of several important month-digs within this one cave, and that this one cave would prove to be part of a complex labyrinth of many caves,—my heart might well have failed. However, even on 1954 findings, things looked big. I therefore decided to dig no more until the Museum could obtain funds and other help on a scale sufficient to mount a major operation.

By 1957, largely through canvassing at International Conferences, enough money was available both from inside and from outside. With the promise of long-term Shell help—containing happily now under Mr. P. M. Linton—and with an initial grant from the Gull-berian Foundation of Lisbon (who have altogether given over 185,000 up to date), there was a nucleus of solid finance and security. On this basis, a planned programme was started in 1957. It is now in its fifth year of implementation. Outside funds for this purpose are kindly administered by three Trustees—Mr. Ong Keng Hai, Mr. Ronald Fletcher and Mr. E. E. Serlyfous.

The plan envisages the gradual excavation of a series of separate but inter-related sites, illustrations of different phases, periods and kinds of prehistoric activity in the Niah-Selva area, as far back into time as we can get. Each year we have added appreciable new amounts of scientific data. Fortunately or otherwise, each year also we have found new caves and sub-caves. These have added much—not only to potential total Niah knowledge but also to the problems of programming and long-term planning.

However, by and large the programme has been going to schedule. It is hoped to have a general picture of the whole set-up in another five years (1966)—unless something entirely new comes up, further to enlarge our scale of search. By no stretch of the imagination can the whole site yet have been covered then. But there were by little points in going on, in some extent. If we are sure we have those particular answers directly on a simple basis. And I plan to leave parts of this wonderful interesting prehistory to you, I hope in a "site museum" at Niah, to excite generations of future Sarawakians and also outside visitors. For with only small further technological progress, Niah will become accessible to the outside—whether we like it or not. Then it may well become one of the sight-seeing attractions of the Far East. For, archaeology apart, it is also in its own right one of the wonders of the unexcused world.

There has been one tragedy at Niah. That is the inadequately controlled excavation of guano at the end of and after the Japanese war. This was no one's fault, really. This was just a mess—made worse by the fact no "non-local" then understood how complex the cave systems were. Whole cave deposits and flutes were stripped, illegally, and unknown to government, to bedrock—and every particle of prehistory in them thus utterly lost in the process. It has been a hard struggle, since, to convince the local community that guano digging and archaeology need not be incompatible. There are still dissidents, but 95 per cent of Niah now agree that not only are the two interests compatible, but can be actually helpful to each other. In this atmosphere—now fully achieved until 1959—advances have been made by both Museum excavation and Quango Committee operations: to improve cave access

¹The Foundation of Vernon Mallon's newly published *The Story of Iba*.

paths and internal communications; enlarge camp; integrate archaeological and geologic digging; ship out the large scale results (of both) and so on. The local people have contributed very considerably to these improvements in the last two years. The Government has matched this, on parallel developments of case accidents in general.

Inevitably, the Niah Cave project impinges on local life. This compels us both to take active notice of many other activities in this rather remote but lively piece of Sarawak, and to be taken notice of. In this regard we count ourselves fortunate in the constant help, support and advice we have been able to draw upon from administrative offices. In particular, the present Resident, Mr. John Fisher, has gone out of his way to facilitate the cave work. And a sequence of District Officers has shown an on-the-spot interest of high value—Mr. R. H. Morris, Mr. D. C. Walker, then over several years Mr. Peter Scantles and currently with energy Mr. Julian Drake-Brockman. Sarawak Administrative Offices stationed at Niah have also helped greatly, though unfortunately (for us) only one has stayed long enough to get the full picture. This one, Abang Arni, has made a major contribution. A good deal of the recent atmosphere is thanks to his wise leadership, coupled with the sensible influence of District Councillors Mirbur bin Jangga and Wang Almas.

In archaeological digging, the Museum staff have always had wide responsibilities. But certainly help has been invaluable. We owe a special debt of thanks to Hugh Gibb (1954 and 7, and a generous gift of cash in 1959); Lord Melville (1957-9, and we hope 1961 again); Geoffrey Barnes (1958); Ewa Kruckowksi (1958-9), and our regular team of trained Sarawak Malay led by Chege Mudi and Nawi.

The main results for each "season" have been included in the relevant chapters of the Sarawak Annual Report; a full account of progress in 1960 has already been submitted for the one now due. More technical reports have appeared in *Man, Nature, Archaeological Newsletter, Antiquity, Sarawak Museum Journal*, and elsewhere; more more "popular" accounts in *Life, Exploration, New York Times, London Observer, The Observer*, etc., as well as on T.V. (BBC, Canada and worldwide).

The latest operations began on 15th December, 1960, and will continue into January, 1961. In these, we are mostly working to re-assess earlier conclusions or hypotheses. At present, with special reference to our deeper work. So mid-January we shall have extended the previously dry area in our so-far single deep pit, "Niah", over a surface area of several square feet and to have extended the surrounding air of trenches more widely to 120"—which is well below the 20,000 B.C. level by Radio-Carbon-14 dating. This deep work is for the most difficult we have to do. It is also, we hope, very rewarding in the long run.

We then step actual digging for about six weeks, take stock, and do certain laboratory tests, assess the main plans for 1961 "season" to start in March, reach a peak in April-June, continue probably into late and later (but on an increasingly specialised schedule, requiring less field-staff, money and skilled supervision, towards the end of the year).

We keep some staff in the caves all the year round, and have built a permanent camp overlooking the West Mouth site. But by May, 1961, we may have a hundred people or more involved in the affair for the new Spring.

During the 1961 year we aim to tackle several major items on the agenda, including:

1. Continued but very slow and careful work downwards (7' below 170').
2. Intensive excavation of the Lobang Hanga cave, only begun in 1959-60.
3. Completion of the "Painted Cave", with its remarkable wall-drawings and ships-of-the-dead (see the new exhibit under the stairs in Museum Old Building).
4. Search for and recording of further sites of wall-paintings (certainly present).
5. Fresh excavations in one entirely "new" site, not yet finally decided upon (it depends a bit on the weather and water levels, which caused a lot of site-cave movements at Niah).
6. Detailed photo and film record of the "middle phase" in the whole project (started 1954, developed 1957, set up thoroughly half-way 1960?).
7. Extended study of related area folklores and customs, with special reference to Puanan and Melanau (including tape recordings).

Of course, the backbone of Niah itself is only one side of the project. The study of what we dig out after it's dug is essential too. This is being done all the year round at Kuching, as well as by a panel of experts in England (British Museum, Linnean Society and Cambridge University), Holland (Leiden and Utrecht), U.S.A. (American Museum of Natural History, Chicago Natural Museum, University of Arizona), etc.

By 1965 we should have a fairly full picture of this remarkable place in preliminary; and by 1966, final, to start writing up the results at least in a preliminary but hopefully in a well-written general form.

Meanwhile it is essential to proceed with patience and self-control. Any natural desire to hasten to improve fast, to get sensational results each season (in order to stimulate further support), to change the tempo when monotony of anticlimactic sets in (it very often does)—these things must be resisted and held for one inch be allowed to sway orderly, controlled progress. On the other hand, new ideas, fresh hypotheses, and occasional lines, are warmly welcomed; and where effective followed up. We must be careful not to become "case-bound" in our rich but small area of Niah. Not that we are in much danger of being left to ourselves in this, indefinitely—even had we wished it so.

This is also one reason why we are pleased to receive visitors during the "season", if they will only give due notice before arrival. One of reasons it is necessary to test up the excavation pits and to wing off some sections of the caves, to prevent accidents or damaging intrusions (especially by wild animals, in the otherwise more accessible mouths). We have for instance been delighted to have visits by His Excellency Sir Anthony Abell, His Excellency Sir Robert Scott (with the Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr. A. R. Smith), Sir Steven Ransome, Mr. Ronald Fletcher, Professor G. H. R. von Koenigswald (Chairman of "Nava Min"), Dr. W. S. Soliman of Fulbright, and at one time or another most of the top brass of the Shell Company—including Mr. Hales by Helicopter. At the time of writing this, we are expecting a large party, from Nanyang University, we are expecting a large party, from Nanyang University, we are also welcoming plans for His Excellency Sir Alexander Waddell's visit later in the year—we hope with Lady Waddell, the Chief Secretary (Mr. Edwin Luker), Mr. and Mrs. P. Linton and Carmel Galbraith of Shell, on that occasion we hope to open the new plank walk with a Puanan-Melanau feast of prohibitive proportions!

TOM HARRISON

Kampung Scenes

For the Malay Day of 1961

by Abang Yusuf Farid

Regatta and the Malays

It is a (very) difficult-to-deny fact that the Malays are fun-and-festival loving. Put differently, they are fond of pretending to appear gay and happy-go-lucky. Pishah! lor! This can be illustrated by a recent festive event.

Recently Kuching (though by no means all Kuching town residents) had occasion to witness the revival of a forgotten (but not missed!) tradition. First of January Regatta formed a regular and colourful feature of the Rega's Almanac. This is but a TRADITION. And like most traditions it may too it does fit awkwardly with the fast changing scenes of the national landscape. To the Malays, be they urban, rural or (and more so too) the ultra-urban, Regatta has wider implications than the mere watching of the paddlers (who are mostly Malays) wearing out their age, competing for a handsome "silver" cup, besides, of course, the few dollar cash. Little was, because in the first place the cup cannot, in most cases, decorate satisfactorily an atop house built on stilts, and furthermore it runs (a silver cup, they call it!) annoyingly quickly.

The last Kuching Regatta was essentially a Malay affair. The same is also true of the other places in Sarawak, though with much reduced grant of funds, it must be admitted. A quick look at the records would readily give a total breakdown of 85 per cent for Malay attendance. A slightly more painstaking survey would raise the figure steady to 90 per cent. But if one cared to take the trouble, a handsome 95 per cent could be confirmed! That certainly is a provocative statistic, and one which invites further thought.

The mere announcement of Regatta would excite the already "gay" moods of most Malays; the scale is heavier for the females. There is an underlying reason. Regatta is among the very limited accepted occasions when they (I mean both sexes) could mix rather freely. The young maidens (going in groups, in most cases) enjoy the simple privilege of moving about unaccompanied by their elders. Traditional code of moral conduct is conveniently relaxed. Traditions, indeed! Regatta provides a fertile ground for make-uppers (i.e. begetes). The girls like to go in parties of varying size, ranging from a dangerous duo to the lucky but riotous seven, and . . . dressed alike, to fantasizing (or tickling, whichever way you look at it) to flirt the eyes on as they move about in their dresses of eye-catching or inviting and, more often than not, contrasting colours. The colour scheme is constant (let me search for the word) . . . blinding! The fashions range from the time-honoured and respectable "sari" (here sarong)—or apocryphal, as it is sometimes wittily nicknamed—to the daring form-fitting bellesa and pace-restricting modern sarongs. And competition is obvious. The rustic beauties try (of course without acknowledging it) to outclass the sophisticated urban damsels; but of course the latter just dismiss it as super-civilized if not outrageous. The boys too have their own peculiar ways. In their chase (or are they being chased? I cannot tell which) they pay attention to their dress also. Fancy shirts of gurgles or life-shortening shades and the material-saving drain-pipe trousers are common sights. So comical! Being less mobile than the boys, the girls would occupy vantage positions, not, however, for the mere. But conspicuous or convenient places where they could be seen and admired by the wolves. Failure to locate such a place would oblige them to migrate. . . . A passing glance may lead to exchanges of fond and more fond glances, and the lady reveals (in that they would

"mooch" there, quite indifferent to the Regatta proper. That is the case of a beginner. But for established sweethearts it is much easier; and they soon "settle down to business" at (perhaps) some pre-arranged place. Oh, Regatta, what happens to you! Are not the facilities for such a by-product activity at weddings (which occur most generously—almost weekly) and other occasions such as Sunday afternoons at the Museum grounds (listening to classical tunes, indeed!) and the seasonal kampung melioras, already sufficient? Spoiled as they are, should they be encouraged to be even more spoiled?

There is another, more gloomy, aspect of the Regatta scene. Rural folks from the neighbouring coastal villages invade Kuching in fleets of public-propelled boats. They arrive early and depart a day or two after the curtain has fallen. One week set aside and all for the sake of the Regatta. Swains wanted for an unnecessary end. This also means a likely week of losing money for the puns on their paid fields; on which a whole year of subsistence depends. Yes, all for the sake of the Regatta. They are fully aware of this but pleasure and Regatta seem to blind them. For this very simple reason alone, Regatta should be restricted to the (very) necessary minimum, and only at convenient time of the year.

Finishing and pretence to appear gay are qualities that have little place in the present stage of the country's development. It was all very well during the romantic days of the past, when there was ample (in that more than ample) time to sit under coconut trees and share the sleep and gossip the day away! But today . . . Let this be a reminder: "The fool wishes when the angel fails to tread!"

The Story

Gibbon has defined history as "The register of the causes, motives and misfortunes of mankind!" How to present these to the reader, nobler and more obvious writers in school has conceived, though not always fruitfully, some of the best minds of the age. The task has not appalled Mr. Muller, and he has presented the history of Sarawak with a clarity that should justify history teachers in taking themselves a much longer time with their charges. But apart from this he has not to shame most writers who have pretended to portray the country's past, for his simple outline presents a balanced picture far removed from the wild exaggerations and unjust over-stress, which characterise the work of so many other authors.

The history of Sarawak has been presented in three volumes. First there is the biographical; this portrays the part of Sarawak in terms of the glorification of James Brooke; it is the legend of St. George and the Dragon transplanted, and though once universally accepted has latterly been so blown upon that it now finds few supporters. Second is the record and transport album; this presents the development of Sarawak as a historic carnival of bloodshed, in so far as Sarawak history is taught at all in schools it is in this fashion, and the reader who asks questions about the past will usually be confronted by a repellent article who will say: "Hong Kap Encounter, 16th March, 1904", though who, or what, or whose, was Hong Kap, or what was encountered, will be completely unknown to him. The third album is that of the chronicle anecdotal. This is not in public vogue, but enjoys a wide circulation amongst the older generation; it compares well with the other passages of Sumner or Deo Cassin. In each of these three cases Sarawak is treated as a micro-cosm isolated from the rest of the world, and subsisting

*Decker and Fall Ch. III.

†The Story of Sarawak by Vernon Muller, O.C.P. II.73.

about in a vacuum; even its immediate neighbours contained only passing references: the Straits Settlements near the centre of wealth, the Netherlands East Indies are dismissed for not being British, North Borneo is arranged for its scandalous beginnings, only Brunei receives any attention, and that the consideration bestowed upon a good read by a heavy cost.

The importance of Mr. Muller's work is that it sets Sarawak in the much larger context of South-East Asian history. By all the canons of tradition, he should start his work with James Brooke's first visit in 1838, which might be prefaced by a few comments on the ancient deposition of Brunei, but instead he starts with the approximate date of 37,000 B.C. and in the Ninth Case at that! As the world was only created in 4004 B.C. many will discount such chronology as preposterous, whilst others with better names will dismiss the Ninth Case as the abode of bats. Yet the fact remains that the discoveries made in these caves are among the most important contributions made by Asia to the study of pre-history. Every Sarawak child should know the significance of the discoveries made in his country, which have agitated scientists the world over. One can only regret that the beautiful picture of the entrance to the Great Cave, which prefaces Chapter 1, was not reproduced on glossy paper so that it might be seen to full advantage.

Having disposed of pre-historic man, Mr. Muller tries to consider the currents of trade in South-East Asia in so far as they affected Borneo, and against this economic background portrays the rise and fall of the Srivijaya, Majapahit and Brunei Empires, the history of which thus becomes intelligible to the widest unselected pupil. This is the approach to history that gave the London School of Economics under Professor Leach its name during the thirties. In many African territories at that time it was sufficient to obtain an honours degree in economics to be committed to prison as an "agitator". Today, of course, this approach to history is the commonplace of even the most conservative universities, and as it would appear that things did in fact happen thus, it is only proper that the archivist should be taught to regard history as the interplay of cause and effect and not just "one damn thing after another".

Mr. Muller's treatment of the Brooke period is most excellently balanced. So far from being led astray by myths and fables, he presents the gradual development of life as the average man was affected; he speaks of antimony and gold, of gambier and rubber, and here for the first time in any history of Sarawak do we find the date of the introduction of the country's basic crop, rubber—1902. How strange that in all the acres of print spent upon battles, slaughter, expeditions, and so forth, there should have been no mention of the year when the counter-stone of the country's economy was introduced! It is rather like writing the history of England and ignoring the opening of Liverpool and Manchester Railway. No doubt there has been the accepted myth that Sarawak was a land of gentlemen governed by gentlemen, and as gentlemen take no cognizance of the sordid details of commerce, such things are rightly omitted from history. One can imagine one or more well-to-do stages commenting on the book "And Sir, the fellow is a rank outsider! Why he writes of gambier and rubber and does not so much as allude to the Hong Kap encounter!"

A charming little feature of the book is the beautiful photograph, recovered for the Museum by Mr. Moy-Thomson of Shell, of the Sarawak Government Railway's locomotive "Balau", No. 1962. From this one perceives a vast railway network covering the country. It is one of those pinkish-brown of Sarawak life which periodically needed international contributions, like the Samanggang Road—Kuching to Serian, the Dya Road—Sibu to swamp, or the Limbang Road—Marud to glimmer.

The final chapters of the book cover the War, Cease, and the present-day raising of the country. Throughout the book is masterfully illustrated and there is an ample glossary to explain difficult or unusual words.

As earlier mentioned, the real merit of Mr. Muller's work lies in the excellent way in which it caters for its appealing public, namely the Primary VI ordinary. Anybody can write a book designed to be read by university graduates, but to frame a work on these lines intelligible to the smaller, noisier, and more obstinate occupants of the desks in Primary VI is a task which few would care to attempt. Mr. Muller can claim the laurels of achievement.

ROBERT NICHOLL

Selling (or Introducing?) Sarawak

The book *Information On Sarawak*, compiled and prepared by the Sarawak Information Service, is a praiseworthy effort but . . .

This is an era when every country, including the backward ones like Sarawak, expects to attract international attention or at least "be known". At no other time in her short history does Sarawak hunger for more publicity—far and wide. The publication is a handsome addition to what has already been done.

The book gives a very general picture of Sarawak. Packed in small 97 pages or 178 pages plus the odds and ends, it certainly cannot claim completeness to cover an area of 48,250 square miles containing a great variety of subjects. But this is modestly explained in the brief "Foreword".

As you will note, the review will weigh more on comments on some minor (and major) shortcomings. To begin with, it starts presumptuously with the opening sentence: "As every school boy should know Sarawak is in Borneo". He or she should, and the Geography teachers cannot agree more. But one need not go very far outside Sarawak to be confronted with confusing (irritating?) or ignorant (falsehood?) inquiries from even intellectuals or near-intellecuals, for example the undergraduates or graduates to confirm whether Borneo is in Sarawak or (less likely) whether Sarawak is the capital of Borneo. The conversational interlude, one may be asked this plain question: "By the way, where is Sarawak?" So it goes on, tawling the air with one's hands to locate it with latitude and longitude. Sarawak is less heard of, and Borneo is more notoriously known! To assure the world-be visitors, it would be more effective (if not dramatic) if the book began boldly with: "Visitors need not worry about the existence of dangerous animals. . . . The hazards are remote in the current." (page 1). The animals. . . .

On page 12 it is declared (unreservedly) that the Malays are "exceptionally liberal and tolerant in their attitude on life". And this is repeated on page 25. This is a harmful statement which may unconsciously incline to entirely faulty conclusions. To say the least the Malays are conservative or orthodox and at most they are "only beginning to realize". Their tolerance has limits (and not exceptional).

Kabong, a small fishing town in the Second Division, is tagged as having "such a reputation for gaiety that it is known as the Paris of Sarawak!" (page 13). If Paris is associated with gaiety, then "immorality" had been a fair tribute for Kabong. But fortunately such an unwholesome reputation is fast fading away.

The absence of photographs or illustrations tends to leave a reader wondering. Illustrations would certainly be advantageous for a book of that nature designed for such purposes. The inclusion of the two maps illustrates the point.

Part III, "Mainly For Visitors", is humorously informative. But it would have been better if it were to contain some warnings to the would-be visitors that there are such things as customs and customary law (*adat*) which (unfortunately) do not exempt the visitors in case of breach.

"Do not expect to travel on the cheap", is a fair warning (page 12). But that would lead the readers to expect for statistics, that is list of fares.

Appendix IV (page 126) "Specimen Food Prices"—is rather out of date. It lists out prices for last May, (1960).

For the next edition of the book, the inclusion of the following items would be a fair suggestion. A visit to the grand Radio Sarawak building, and then a quick (really quick) walk along the Gambier Road and possibly an equally quick round at the Vegetables market. One hopes that the visitors will not be too sick to relate the differences. Then there are the ferries that cross one at the Suspension bridge, which will take him to the successful treatment area at Kampong Ulu.

Now it is turn for kinder words. Part I, though of a general character, contains vital information which should be known. It contains interesting surprises such as "there is virtually no big game in Sarawak", (page 2), "Crocodiles are rare uncommon though they exist and occasionally kill people", (page 7), or "Sarawak is a relatively healthy country by tropical standards . . ." (page 17).

If Part III is "Mainly For Visitors", then Part II (Business) is directed to the investors. They are well advised to read it and examine the vital statistics, and then look a passage to Sarawak. The "Business Directory" and the inclusion of the Pioneer Industries (Management) Ordinance is a smart thought.

As has been pointed, Part III is humorously informative, and does make an interesting reading.

For those really interested to know Sarawak a little more the bibliography should provide a good guide.

Though a general information is often an information at all, *Introduction On Sarawak* seems to be the right and useful bundle of information for whom it is intended. To all visitors, investors or even Sarawakians I say this: READ IT!

ARANG YUSUF PUTER

Fifth Column

It was beginning to get dark and cool at the landing place. Round the bend of the river a boat came lazily down, a small boy, Agus, standing in the front guiding it with a long pole. From time to time he looked into the boat. This is what caught my attention. Soon he swept by in a perfect curve and edged his way upstream to the landing place. Here was his secret. Bending he lifted a flat light ponder which stretched over both of his forearms. His behaviour was that of a man but when he looked at me he could not prevent the corner of his mouth from turning upwards in a smile of simple pride.

Casually he walked the length of the house to his own door. Some of the more ragged boys followed him but from the elders caught but a slight widening of the eyes. From behind rose the happy murmuring of women as the fish was divided. His the full glory of the hunter.

Ulu Transport

Some very peculiar things are carried from Lawas basins, over the border. Recently I met a man, near Bah Kelatan, who was carrying a bicycle. It appears

that some roads can be ridden over on the far side. He had very little idea of how to repair it. Perhaps he will carry it down again when it goes wrong.

I have often thought of writing a short comedy on the following lines but regret not being capable of it.

Setting: A small colony on the outskirts of the Roman Empire called Britannia (Do not misunderstand me. They did not do too badly out of it did they?)

One can easily imagine the conversations of these Roman administrators and their wives out on the rim of the known world.

Scene 1: (Jervinus having worn down the patience of Senecus with his mad ideas.)

Senecus: Look here Jervinus when I came here I was a bit like you—wanting to build roads and bridges and rushing about madly but I have given all that up now. Boy! bring some more Pileman. Where was I? Oh! you you will grow out of it. What's more the Natives dislike the whole idea.

* * *

Scene 2: Anthony (that revolts long, etc) and Labours standing in front of a new chariot.

Anthony: What do you think of her old boy—all the way from Rome. Got a bit knocked about unloading but she can show the rest of them a clean pair of heels.

Labours: By Jove!

Anthony: I hear they are putting you on the building of the wall. I hope you like it up there (sighing).

Labours: I'm afraid I don't know much about the place but I hear those Picts are a wild lot—liable to take your head off.

* * *

Scene 3: (Morning in the Villa)

Claudia: That woman. If ever I . . .

Mitewas: Which here she comes

(Enter Cleo dressed in the latest Egyptian style. Plenty of glass this one).

Claudia: How are you darling? What a lovely outfit. Is that the one I saw you wearing last month at the race?

Cleo: (Ignoring Claudia's Sully) Just look at my arms—Covered in mosquito bites. The place is alive with them.

Claudia: I wish they would cut down some of the bush around my villa—Nothing but jungle for miles.

Mitewas: If only somebody would tell me where to find a good slave. . . . (This is too boring to go on).

* * *

Scene 4: (Miles away from Londinium a small town).

Postler: That's the fourth runner this week. We get no peace since this service put them in such close touch with us. I wouldn't mind if they knew anything about what goes on here. Some of them ought to come out of their nice warm offices and get their toes frozen. By Jove! if ever I get a chance I'll show them how to run that place down there—Them and their runners!

R. B. S. McCORMACK.

Frustrations and Consolations in the Life of a Sedentary Officer

Edited by J. P. Ruff

Sunday—Unventured

Monday. Organising presentation for Braithwaite, our retiring Deputy Director. I have been appointed secretary of the Farwell Party and Presentation Committee (for my sins). We have collected over \$200, and decided to buy a silver salver, engraved with fortunate signatures of all members of the department who have contributed sums of over \$5. The inscription took a lot of doodling on. Candy, as usual, made a lustrious (and I must add, extremely helpful) suggestion. Eventually we decided on:

James de Livory Braithwaite

On the occasion of his retirement

as

Deputy Director of General Activities

from his colleagues, in warm gratitude

"Per ardua ad astra"

The last is added because Braithwaite had a distinguished record in the RAF in the last war (Education branch). It may also be taken to refer to Braithwaite's great achievement in reaching high office, in spite of his complete lack of formal education. He is, of course, very well read, and takes *The Times Weekly* and *Flowler*.

Nearly had a nasty accident in Rock Road today, owing to sudden appearance of a green and red car painted in white figures. Probably it was advertising some soft drink.

Tuesday. Up to the club with Eva and the children. I must say the swimming pool is a boon. Eva had on her new swimming costume from Robinson's, and I think she was rather piqued to see that Mrs. Claverton-Smith and her friend both had new bikinis on, even brighter than before. Eva disapproves, but I say that you're only young once. I must admit that I could hardly restrain my laughter when old Grinson of the Treasury stole a No. 3 shot and the ball landed with a smack on a bare and unshorn part of Mrs. Claverton-Smith. Claverton-Smith and Grinson had quite a heated altercation through the wire, and for a time Claverton-Smith refused to return the ball. Certainly, life has its compensations. Unfortunately I was so engrossed that I did not notice that my ice cream was melting and had dripped down all over my copy of Lady Duff-Cooper's memoirs.

Wednesday. Keep awake by dogs tonight. Though I am usually kind to animals, I got so exasperated that at length I threw a shoe at the dogs, but missed, I think. Couldn't find shoe.

Wednesday. Found shoe very chewed up under bathroom sink. Unfortunately in the dark I had taken one of Eva's new pair, with stiletto heels. Eva greatly put out, in spite of my assurance that I would stick the shoe together with Durafix and have it right as rain in a jiffy.

Later. Tonight was the big party for Braithwaite. Miss Chen and the other members of the Decoration Committee had made the office look really festive, with paper chairs, balloons, and a banner over the door "God speed to our honored Deputy Director". We had speeches and an excellent Chinese dinner. Candy arrived somewhat the worse for wear, and was quite inebriated. During dinner, showing off how clever he was with chop-sticks, he dropped a large piece of hot chicken on my hot trousers, then proceeded to give a long and supposedly humorous monologue taking of a Lancashire accent (which, incidentally is the purest form of English). Ashamed to say that Eva actually encouraged him.

Braithwaite made an excellent speech which I found very moving. Spoke of his happy association with the staff, their loyal co-operation, and how he would always welcome any of us (especially those who had their names on the salver) at his home near Bantley if ever we were round that way.

Thursday. Last night's festivities well reported in the *Tribe*. Headline was "Braithwaite Feted", with a picture. Unfortunately the picture had been transposed with one of a new copywriting machine, printed upside down. Rather surprised to find no mention of myself as secretary of the organising committee, although I greatly dislike publicity.

Friday—Monday. Nothing of moment.

Friday. Received water bill today. It is three times last month's. Most put-out. Rang the Water Board and was passed on from one person to the next but received an satisfaction. Was told "their responsibility ends at the meter". Cursed Eva, the children, and servants against waste, and then paid up with a bad grace.

Went to debate at Radio Sarawak tonight. Subject was something about an emergent society. Spoke from the floor, but that silly man Oregon was chairman and he opposed me before I had got up to the point I was going to make. Apparently they have a strict time limit, but there surely should be some flexibility in interpreting the rules.

Saturday. Annoyed by Eva calling from the garden. Rose is busy thinking it must be some emergency. Found all the fuss was due to snails having eaten her dahlia seedlings. Rather annoyed.

A frustrating day in the office, preparing Estimates. Last year we made a mistake and had to apply for an A.S.W. The Director blamed me and Candy is always making stupid jokes about it. I want to make doubly sure this year, so I am spending most of this month on it. Candy really inimitable today. Keeps walking through the office and making enquiries about how my gasmainates are going, and laughing loudly at his own weak jokes. At four thirty found I had forgotten to include Machine Operators Allowance and had to re-do the whole lot.

Arrived home in time to do some gardening. Wooded and thinned out the canna bed. Very straggly and much obscured by weeds. Collected a number, but when about to administer the coup de grace, Annette who was watching started crying and making a fuss. Can't understand this newly developed tenderness for snails, or usually the children are most heartlessly destructive of animal life. Placed snails under a flower pot to deal with later. I myself went through a phase of not killing snails, after reading a book on Buddhism, but gave it up after they ate a very special bibulous I was trying to grow. As my friend Edith Wainey says, even if the snail is a re-incarnation of your grandfather, it would be a kindness to help him on to the next re-incarnation quickly.

Thursday. Eggs at breakfast overcooked. Mildly reconciliated with Eva, who decided to take offence, and that I was always late for breakfast, etc., etc. Then children started up, and I left the house with nerves and temper somewhat frayed. Not impaired by near collision with a red sports car driven by that young Sanders from the bank, who shot out of side road just in front of me. I don't know how he can afford such an expensive car when he has only just arrived.

Good progress today. Completed designing new form for general financial returns which should save a lot of work.

Listened to the broadcast of Radio Sarawak debate in which I had taken part, and surprised to find they had cut my remarks out. Although I had been unable to make my point (due to chairman's intervention, as

explained) I should have thought my introductory remarks were of interest. Wrote stiff letter to programme organizer but then decided to tear it up.

Friday, Unsuccessful.

January. Dropped Eva at Union Club complex with bins and potted plants for the Social Welfare Sale. Showed new form to Director, who was fairly enthusiastic but said as we had seven years' supply of the old kind we had better use them up first. I pointed out that it would save a lot of work to scrap the old ones and introduce mine straight away but he was adamant. Later on I began to suspect that he was deliberately putting me off in order to introduce the form at his own time next year. Decided such suspicions unworkable, but nevertheless, only raised after the way my idea for the bicycle shed was pinned.

Joined Eva at the Sale and helped on the plant stall. Candy came up. "I see you've just sold it" he said. "Sold what?" I asked. "My plant I generously presented" he replied. "Actually it's only a bunch of very healthy lalang in a pot with the latin name on it." That's Candy's idea of a joke. Was rather worried, as had just sold it to Lady Kelsey for 15, and had told her I thought it had large purple flowers. Found Lady Kelsey and tried to explain, but she was standing right under the drafting music loudspeakers, and she thought I was trying to make out she hadn't paid for it. She became rather annoyed and stalked off furiously clutching her pot of lalang. I had a good talk with Mr. Linn about mealy bugs and scale insects, he is an expert in such matters, but wouldn't really hold out much hope. Went home with a headache due to the loudspeakers.

I can now divulge in the pages of this diary what I have in fact known for some time in confidence, namely that we are shortly to be transferred, by a longer or shorter period, to a Neighbouring Territory. We shall be sorry to leave Kuching, especially now my hibiscus are coming on so well, but as a member of H.M. Overseas General Activities Service, we must ever be willing to serve where required, no doubt small bit to raise standards in under-developed and unexplored countries. Personal considerations must come second in any case there is now income tax in Sarawak as anywhere else.

Some Facts About Sarawak's Economy

Some very misleading comments on the subject of the Sarawak Economy has appeared in the Chinese Press, although there is no lack of accurate information available. It may be useful to draw the public's attention to a few important points.

The fancy behind much of this inaccurate thinking is that Sarawak is a rich country but that foreign interests control the mineral wealth, based on the exclusive production of export crops and discourage industrialization. The facts are very different.

Firstly, the question of mineral resources. The main mineral resource known at present is bauxite which is being exploited at Serapiak by Serapiak Bauxite Limited. This is a company in which there are Swiss, Canadian and Japanese interests. The Swiss interest has had experience of operating bauxite mining in Malaya. The Canadian and Japanese interests represent consumers.

This has proved a happy combination because the problem of winning and especially of loading bauxite are major ones and the Malayan experience in this connection has proved most valuable. But it cannot be too often pointed out that winning bauxite is not enough. It still has to be sold. Bauxite is not a mineral which is in short supply. There are, in fact, enormous reserves of bauxite all over the world and more are

constantly being discovered. If Sarawak wants to sell its bauxite, it is only common sense to encourage consumers to take an interest in mining bauxite here. They can just as easily buy the mineral in Australia or Indonesia.

Ten per cent of the value of bauxite is paid to Government, that is to the people of this country, five per cent in the form of Royalty and five per cent in the form of export duty. From the point of view of Sarawak these terms compare very favourably with terms arranged in other parts of the world. The Company is also liable to Sarawak Income Tax. Government is satisfied that the present arrangement is in the public interest and that had the development of the Serapiak Bauxite deposit been left purely to local private enterprise, the present position whereby Sarawak has become an important producer of the mineral would not have been reached.

Very little oil has been produced in Sarawak since the war. The annual average is only about fifty thousand tons. It would not be enough to make the Malayan oilfield operations worthwhile on their own. The main oil profits in Sarawak are from the operations of the Laitum Refinery, which processes Brunei oil. Profits on the operation of this refinery are subject to Sarawak income tax and if the refinery were to cease operations, a very large number of Sarawak men would be thrown out of work and there would be an appreciable reduction in Sarawak revenue.

Although oil winning in Sarawak is not profitable, the Shell Company has spent very large sums in prospecting for oil here. The total expenditure in Sarawak on oil search since the war amounts to more than ninety million dollars. This could not possibly be done by Government or by private enterprise based on purely Sarawak capital. Oil search is a very costly business and can only be undertaken by a very big company with very large reserves or by a large and wealthy government. The search by Shell for oil in Sarawak and off its shores continues and if any is found in appreciable quantities it will be a splendid thing for the country, but to try and make out that Sarawak is known to be rich in mineral oil is completely untrue and grossly misleading.

Apart from gold, which is now produced in very small quantities by local miners, the only other major mineral which may repay exploitation is coal and here again the problem is one of finding markets and of finding the very substantial capital required to develop the coalfield. Little interest has been shown by local investors in finding the sixty-five million dollars estimated to be necessary for this development and it seems probable that mineral capital will need to be joined with local capital if Sarawak is to benefit from this asset.

Some commentators have claimed that most of the capital employed in Sarawak is "foreign capital", that is European capital. This, of course, is not correct. The amount of foreign capital in Sarawak is in fact unusually small. Apart from mineral production, the vast proportion of capital employed in agricultural enterprises, lumber extraction, light industry, commercial buildings and shops are in local Chinese capital. It cannot be regarded as foreign capital although it is not "Native" capital in the term understood in Sarawak.

Another misleading claim that has been made is that because Sarawak is not entirely self-supporting in basic necessities, the people suffer by their partial dependence on imported food. While it is certainly the case that such production methods require very substantial investment, so that rice yields per acre can be raised from their present very low level, it is not in the national interest that our farmers should exclusively devote themselves to such production on unworkable land when a more remunerative return can be obtained from rubber or pepper—a return which can be used out

only to buy food but other necessities as well. In this connection, it is interesting to note how food parcels are handed into the General Post Office in Kuching alone for transmission to mainland China at a rate of over 100,000 a year.

Agriculturally, Sarawak is by no means wealthy because, on the whole, the soils are poor. They compare very unfavourably with the soils in many other areas of the world. The soils are, however, suitable for rubber, pepper, sugarcane and the growing of timber and these products are the main exports for Sarawak and are likely to remain so. There is no question of the people of Sarawak being compelled to grow or export export crops only. They are grown and exported because they are the only ones which have so far been found suitable for local conditions and no amount of wishful thinking can alter this fact. It is true that prices of agricultural produce fluctuate but this is something entirely outside the power of Government and will remain outside the power of Government even when independence is obtained.

There may well be a case for improving the system of marketing agricultural produce. Many other territories have found that it is desirable to introduce bodies such as marketing boards who can ensure that the producer is paid a fair price and that his produce is put on the world market in an orderly way. So far there has been very little interest in development of this kind in Sarawak, where producers are strongly individualistic in their outlook, and where such a development is opposed by the trading interests concerned, but such a system may be necessary eventually.

Finally, we come to the question of industrialization. It is said by some that Sarawak could manufacture many of the things which are imported from outside. Why import cloth from Japan or China or Lanesathia when it can be produced here? . . . Why import pots and pans from Germany and Czechoslovakia when the same articles could be made in Sarawak? The fact is that Government wishes to encourage industrialization within reason, and is doing so, but it has to take into consideration one overbalancing and often forgotten factor, the interest of the consumer. The Borneo market is a very small one and consequently the scale of industry here can also only be small. It is also far from large markets. No-one would dream of building a large cotton mill in Sarawak to supply both the Sarawak market and also, say, Malaya and Indonesia. The scale of production can only be small and this means that the cost of production in Sarawak must be high. Most goods could only be produced in Sarawak and sold at a profit if Government was prepared to give that industry very heavy protection by raising the duty on imported goods. This in turn means that the man in the street—gardener, labourer, clerk, businessman and others—would all have to pay more for those goods. This in turn would increase the cost of living. No-one wants this.

Government's policy is to encourage industrialization and to give it all the help it can, provided this can be done without excessive protection which both reduces the resources available for spending on needs like schools and hospitals and roads, and forces up the price of goods. This limits the amount of industrial development which can take place but to do otherwise would not be in the interest of the public. There are plenty of industrialists who would be prepared to start up in Sarawak provided they are given heavy protection and generally a monopoly as well, but this would not be acceptable to any section of the public. Before people start urging local production of any goods, they should consider first whether they are prepared to pay more for them and secondly whether they think the benefits are greater than any loss of revenue which may result.

Government will give particular encouragement to any manufacturing industry which makes use of

Sarawak produced raw materials such as local timber or rubber.

But it must be realized that there is no easy solution to the economic problems of Sarawak and those who claim that there is do members of the public a dis-service. The most essential thing is that Sarawak must improve its agriculture in every way possible—by improving existing crops, introducing new ones where soil conditions make this practicable, by helping and advising farmers, and by improving communications. Industrialization will continue to be encouraged but not where this will adversely affect the interests of the man in the street, who benefits from the freedom of Sarawak importers to import goods from the best and cheapest market, whether that be Britain or Czechoslovakia, India, Japan or Communist China. Sarawak is probably the freest market that exists in South East Asia. It is vitally important that the Sarawak public understands that there are no easy solutions and that those who claim otherwise are either deliberately or through ignorance misleading the members of the public whom they seek to inform.

G.S.S. Press Release

At Your Service

"THE CO-OPERATIVE WAY FOR SARAWAK"

by Mr. H. S. BROWN

The co-operative movement originated in the United Kingdom and has spread all over the world. It has played a steadily growing part in British economic life over the last 100 years and is playing a more and more important role in the economic life of many developing countries.

The early English co-operatives of Rochdale, and other industrial towns and villages of Lancashire, looked forward to a complete transformation of society in which co-operation would replace competition in commerce, industry and agriculture. They opened their campaign with the formation of co-operative stores, providing their members with food and household needs of sound quality at reasonable prices and with a device—the famous "Dixy-donut on purchase" which retained all the profits to the members in proportion to the use they had made of their stores.

From their modest beginning an organisation has grown which today, in the United Kingdom, has 12,000,000 members, equal to nearly a quarter of the entire population. The London Co-operative Society alone has more than 1,000,000 members and is the largest co-operative in the world. Astonishing isn't it. There is no town, and very few villages in the United Kingdom without its co-operatives.

Co-operation literally means "working together"—in that case no doubt we are all Co-cooperators; but when we talk of the CO-OPERATIVE WAY we are using the term to mean a form of economic organisation, or method of doing business, specifically suited to persons of limited means. Co-operative achievements in other parts of the world have been immense and have brought great benefits to the common people. As I have said the modern movement is not a new one, it is over a century old, it is growing day by day, and continues throughout the world are seeking more and more to foster Co-operation among their peoples.

The Government of Sarawak has no intention of trying to force Co-operation on anyone, but the Government are in the movement, a means of aiding the people to help themselves, and therefore in 1949 set up a Department to assist them to do so. Co-operative Officers, who will be based working from Kuching in the First and Second Divisions, in the Third Division from Sibu and the Fourth Division from

Min) and your friends and advisers; they do not give orders but they explain the law governing co-operation and their wish is to help you to understand the meaning of a society so as to reduce the probabilities of loss to members and to secure for them the benefits which I shall attempt to describe. Co-operation is a movement of the people, and no direct financial assistance is given by Government; but Government gives immense help by paying the staff of the Co-operative Development Department and by making concessions such as freedom from stamp duties and registration fees.

Co-operation is based on the voluntary and democratic association of people; voluntary, because it seeks only to serve those who feel an economic need; and democratic, because those who share a common need should welcome an organization seeking to satisfy that need. It seeks only honest men in its ranks and has no place for the selfish, the extravagant or the dishonest. It is non-political and realizes that its members shall leave their politics outside the movement in the political organizations where they belong. It has no quarrel with the honest trader, but its avowed enemies are the extortionate money-lenders, the dishonest, the profiteers and the monopolists and it wants nothing to do with those who seek by force to impose their will on their fellowmen.

AGRICULTURE is Sarawak's premier "industry". But we cannot cultivate—or for that matter do any other business—without capital; and capital is exactly what most of us lack. No doubt each of us can try individually to raise some capital, and some of us may succeed, but the vast majority will fail because they lack the property for that "security" which is what a money-lender first looks for when you try to raise a loan. But there is one financier who looks not to your material security for its first; you may have none but to your moral security (that is to say the type of man you are) and that financier is the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY. Its membership is open to every honest man who needs capital for carrying his livelihood providing he is prepared to contribute even small regular amounts to help to build up capital with the society; the only disqualification is dishonesty.

Co-operators cannot be made overnight. They must be educated in the principles of the movement and must learn the methods through experience. The Rural Co-operative Credit Society is an organization for teaching and it does two things. It gives the honest farmer a grounding in Co-operative principles and practices from which he can go on to other forms of Co-operative Development and at the same time may help to relieve him from indebtedness.

You may be neither a trader nor a businessman, or you may have been a business but have been given relief by means of a Rural Credit Society. You may be just an ordinary producer whose worry is how to get the best return for your produce. This may be solved for you by the CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING SOCIETY which pools the produce of members, arranges joint transport and negotiates sales at a central point at the best prevailing price. In this manner the individual members' expenses for travelling and the transport costs of many small lots of produce are reduced. You can have any form of Marketing Society you like—johelang, birds' nests, vegetables, pork and so on.

Being a farmer, you may require fertilizer for your pepper, manure for your pepper, manure for your vegetables, pipe feed, seed, farming tools and other goods and even freshwater; or being a fisherman you may want nets, boats, and carboid engines. So, if you had a number of honest people with the same common needs, you would perhaps join yourselves into a CO-OPERATIVE SUPPLY SOCIETY, or even ask your local Rural Credit Society or your local Marketing

Society, if you are a member, to purchase your requirements in bulk from wholesalers. You will be surprised how much money can be saved in this way, provided you are loyal to your Society and all your members stick together.

It must not be thought, however, that Co-operation is so busy looking after the interests of the farmer or producer that it has little or no time for the salary earner and town dweller.

Salary earners, if they wish to be thrifty and to make provision for their future and for the welfare of their families and to have ready funds for difficult periods, should join a CO-OPERATIVE THRIFT AND LOAN SOCIETY which will help them to do this. They must agree to make a small monthly contribution to the Society out of their salaries which may be deducted by their employer, if he agrees to undertake this kind service and they acceptably reduce the cut. Gradually this money mounts to a fair sum, and if they should need money for some special purpose, such as school fees, medical expenses or to repair their houses they can ask their Society for a loan which they may expect to get at reasonable rates of interest.

There are a few of the problems that can be solved in the "CO-OPERATIVE WAY". There are many other problems which Co-operation can remedy, but there is no need to go further into detail. Your imagination will tell you the rest. But Co-operation is especially voluntary. It must not be forced onto people and the desire to Co-operate must spring from the people themselves. Therefore the people must be sufficiently instructed to wish it. Hence the "CO-OPERATIVE WAY" is by its nature a slow, but a very sure way. More and more countries are turning to Co-operation as the surest, if not the only, means of stabilizing the country people and wage earners.

I said earlier that Co-operation is primarily an economic organization, but it is more than that. It is a way of life. With its motto of "Each for All and All for Each" it necessarily leads to higher things than the merely material objects it sets out to achieve, for, by putting a premium on character it naturally helps to build men's character, and makes for not merely Better Farming and Better Business, but, what is even more important to the individual and to this country, Better Living.

If you join a Co-operative Society or help to form one remember that it is the members who control the Society and all its funds and that the Co-operative Development Department will only assist by showing how such control should be exercised and the best way to keep account of such funds.

The Co-operative Development Department will always be glad to assist groups of people sincerely wishing to start Co-operative Societies.

Since 1949 it has helped more than 200 groups of people and some of these groups have formed themselves into useful and well-run Co-operatives. I remember, for instance, helping to form the first Co-operative in the Fourth Division at Lenggong; it was a simple peak savings society, where instead of saving money the members saved and eventually sold, pork. Early this year the members of this society realized that they had saved no less than 16,000.00 and, since saving for the sake of saving appeals to very few they asked if there was any way in which this money could now be used to raise the standard of life in their locality. The installation of a water pump, to save the women those countless and time-wasting journeys for water, and the provision of a lighting set were suggested. Those of us who have tried to work by the dim glow of an oil lamp can appreciate the benefit that electric light will bestow even if we define the meaning of that most attractive and romantic night

some of the longhouse verandahs. It is easy to imagine how the women will appreciate being able to sew or to make baskets at night and how the children will enjoy being able to read, especially those who are able to draw from the recently installed Longhouse libraries and thus life will be much more interesting.

When this Department first started work in the Timar it was discovered that in one longhouse there were no children under the age of six. Our friends in the Medical Department said that much of the trouble came from the incessant pounding of pestle which often caused the women to miscarry. So the Co-operative Officers suggested a Padi Milling Society be formed and this has proved a great success. To the joy of all those who visit this house today it is teeming with bright happy children and the Department of Co-operative Development is proud to know that it played some part in its revival.

When this splendid house was so tragically destroyed by fire it was with a sense of real achievement that I heard the people say the only thing they have left in this world were their savings in the Co-operative Bank and with those savings they proposed to start rebuilding. Not only does this illustrate the standard character of Sarawak people but it also illustrates the worthwhile work the Department of Co-operative Development is trying to do—in your service.

"The Printer's Devil"

By Mr. F. W. Goodwin

What is a Printer? Anyone who has made a study of printing will realize how difficult it is to define the term. (and typesetters authors, of course, have their own interpretations), but in effect a printer is an artist who, with the aid of the materials at his disposal, strives to create something legible and pleasing to the eye, be it a newspaper, illustrated periodical, or humble departmental form.

He is not a magician, neither is he a person, as some would believe, who operates a glorified mangle machine which takes in manuscript at one end and in a matter of hours spews it out at the other end as a complete printed and bound book. In fact a printer has a lot to contend with, not the least being the activities of that ancient, ungodly number of his staff—the Printer's Devil—who delights in throwing the occasional spanner in the works, reviving a picture block or maybe transposing a line of type when the machine master's back is turned.

Printing, as a process of making impressions in, or leaving marks upon, a surface, is of great antiquity. There are still in existence, however, many woodcut surfaces, engraved wood blocks and other devices that serve as guidespost to mark the advance of printing from humble beginnings to the numerous and complex methods of today. This history of printing is quite fascinating, but time does not permit me to go into it in any great detail. My Chinese listeners will be interested to know, however, that printing was practised in China as far back as A.D. 974 and that this method of rubbing off impressions from a wood block spread along the caravan routes to the West where, therefore, block-prints and block-books were well known by the time a gentleman by the name of Gutenberg started experimenting in printing, with movable types, at Strasbourg in the year 1440.

These movable types, or stamps or letters as they are called by printers, consist usually of rectangular pieces of metal or wood, having on their upper surface, slightly raised, some character in a reversed form.

When the form of the types are inked and a sheet of paper is pressed between them and any impression surface, the ink is transferred to the paper which thus receives a legible (we hope!) impression of the types.

That, in effect, is what we call letter-press printing. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

We have come a long way since Gutenberg, and in this age of mechanisation can look back with profound admiration for the pioneers in this field who so laboriously set their pages of type by hand and, also by hand, inked and printed them off sheet by sheet on converted wine presses.

The Sarawak Government Printing Office, I am glad to say, has kept pace with the times and from humble beginnings in the Rajah's days, when relays of prisoners were recruited to operate a hand-press, we now have, amongst other equipment, batteries of mechanical typesetting machines, automatic printing presses, and even a modern electronic engraving machine which produces picture blocks. We still have the original hand-press, now honorably retired, there are certainly no prisoners in the office now, but a team of 204 fine and happy Sarawakians—working together to lighten the burden of an all-time harassed Government Printer.

The average layman, of course, has but little idea of the immensity of the field of modern printing and of its importance to civilization, including as it properly does not only the printed word, and the illustrations that go with it, but also the printing of cloth for garments, of floor coverings, wallpaper, tapestries, printed metal boxes and tins and all sorts of other containers. (Given the printing of rubber set circuits is now an established fact).

When we think of, or talk about, printing we naturally like to give credit to Gutenberg, but it must be recognized that it was the introduction of paper from the East, and the use of heated linseed oil in the manufacture of inks for printing, that made practical the invention of printing from movable type.

Good paper was not made in Europe until near the end of the 13th Century when it is recorded that this commodity was produced and sold in Italy, but it was not until the middle of the 15th Century that paper became abundant and cheap enough to be used for the printing of books on a commercial scale.

Boiled linseed oil was in use by Dutch artists of the early 14th Century and its use in ink for printing, therefore, was a natural development.

One of the factors which influenced the use of movable type for printing was the very great demand at that time for cheap bibles and religious pamphlets of various kinds. Almost the whole of Europe was feverishly discussing religious matters, and especially in Germany and in Holland discussion was rife and the demand for bibles very active, but only the very wealthy could afford to own the hand-lettered and illuminated bibles produced by the scribes. Printing from movable types was no doubt intended to be a substitute for the hand-work of the scribes then extensively employed on producing manuscripts of the scriptures. In fact, the first printed books were frank imitations of hand-written manuscripts, and one of the reasons to which the new art was subjected was that the work was not perfect—too well done to be a good imitation of the imperfections of hand lettering.

One of the immediate results of the invention of printing was the appearance of an abundance of bibles in the world. School books became cheaper, and the knowledge of reading spread swiftly. Books were plainer and easier to read, and therefore easier to understand.

People began to write books to be read, and printing became a thoroughly practical art. One of the results was a standardization of languages, and the influence of local dialects began to disappear. Books were printed in standard Italian, standard English, standard Spanish, standard French, and later, standard German. These languages became definite norms for the expression of national thought, and definite rules were established for speaking and writing them.

So much for the older times; let us now look at the industry today, when printers not only print bibles and books but, as I have said, also print textiles and metal,

In our local shops you will find various kinds of cloth printed with beautiful designs. If you buy a box of chocolates, perhaps you will admire the richness of the beautiful film star printed on the cover before you taste the contents. If you want to buy a packet of cigarettes you will first look at the printed brand to make sure that it is your favourite smoke. In fact, you are in constant touch with printing from the time you leave your bed in the morning till you return to it at night! Look at the tube of toothpaste you use when you brush your teeth, the newspaper you read at the breakfast table, the ticket you received on the bus. When you are in your office, you will be surrounded with printed matter and after you have finished the day's work, you may wish to relax and listen to the delightful programmes broadcast from Radio Sarawak, and for your education you will consult that work of art—your *Sarawak Times*.

Well, after all that, I think we can safely say that printing is an industry as important as any in this modern world.

Now, let us turn once more to the Sarawak Government Printing Office, the main subject of this talk. The Printing Office is the Government central organisation for the supply of printed matter, stationary, and office supplies of all kinds, and published books and periodicals for the Public Services; it also undertakes binding and duplicating work and distributing services for Government departments.

The Printing Office is the official publisher for the Government. Government publications produced at the Printing Office cover a wide and varied range. They include the *Sarawak Gazette* which has been issued since 1873, various school text books, annual departmental reports, Geological bulletins and memoirs, Government Gazette, Museum Journals, and monthly newspapers in Iban and Malay.

Apart from the odd publication which you, the Public, may wish to buy you have very little direct contact with the Printing Office, but indirectly the work we do has a great bearing on your every-day life. To function efficiently Government must be fed with a multitude of printed forms and stationery of every description—Forms must be published and issued for the smooth running of the country and to safeguard your rights—the Medical services which safeguard your health, the Educational services which see to the advancement of your children, the Postal Services which give you contact with the outside world, the Agricultural, Broadcasting and all other departments which do serve you directly, would indeed be in a sorry state without us.

Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals

Mr. I. Cook	By flight ML 418 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. Returning from leave.
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Neely and daughter	By flight ML 418 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. Returning from leave.
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Brock	By flight ML 418 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. Returning from leave.
Miss V. D. Wild (Newly appointed Woman Education Officer)	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. On first appointment.
Miss M. B. A. Inbar (Newly appointed stenographer/Archivist in the Constabulary Department)	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. On first appointment.
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Howard and 2 children	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. Returning from leave.

Miss M. L. Dallas (Newly appointed stenographer/Archivist in the Constabulary Department)	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. On first appointment.
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Lambert and 1 son (Mr. Lambert is a newly appointed Road Inspector, P. W. D.)	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. (Also transferred by flight ML 418 on 3.1.61.) On first appointment.
Mrs. A. G. Martin and son	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. To join Mr. A. G. Martin.
Mr. R. G. Dixon (Newly appointed Assistant Commissioner of Forests)	By flight ML 418 Singapore/Sibu on 3.1.61. On first appointment.
Mr. & Mrs. D. E. Pearce and 2 children	By flight ML 418 Singapore/Kuching on 3.1.61. Returning from leave.
Mr. Justice G. G. Briggs	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 22.1.61. Returning from leave.
Miss S. I. Heine	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 23.1.61. Returning from leave.
Miss M. J. Raftery	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 23.1.61. Returning from leave.
Mr. & Mrs. B. W. Chandler and son	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 23.1.61. Returning from leave.
Mrs. A. H. Woods and son	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 23.1.61. To join Mr. A. H. Woods.
Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Rossiter	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 1.2.61. Returning from leave.
Mr. J. D. R. Paxton (Newly appointed Road Inspector, P.W.D.)	By flight ML 476 and ML 421 Singapore/Kuching/Sibu on 1.2.61. On first appointment.
Mr. E. J. Potts (Newly appointed Engineer and Manager, Kuching Water Board)	By flight ML 476 Singapore/Kuching on 1.2.61. On first appointment.
Miss Faith Le Nyak Kiew	By flight ML 418 Singapore/Kuching on 4.1.61. Returning from a course of study in the United Kingdom.
Mrs. M. T. Reed	By flight ML 418 Singapore/Kuching on 4.1.61. To join Dr. M. T. Reed.
Departures	
Mr. J. F. Mobery	By Royal Airforce Kuching/Singapore on 7.1.61. Proceeding on leave to Australia prior to retirement.
Mr. & Mrs. Thea Chin Hui and son	By Royal Airforce Kuching/Singapore on 7.1.61. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Dr. M. B. Watt	By flight ML 477 Kuching/Singapore on 15.1.61. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. & Mrs. B.W. Knight	By flight ML 477 Kuching/Singapore on 23.1.61. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. D. E. Wilson	By flight CX 714 Kuching/Hong Kong on 23.1.61. Proceeding to Australia on completion of agreement.
Mr. James D. Flower and Lady Flower and 2 children	By Airforce Mail/Singapore on 24.1.61. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Johnson	By Airforce Kuching/Singapore on 25.1.61. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Macleod and 2 children	By flight ML 477 Kuching/Singapore on 25.1.61. Proceeding to the United Kingdom on completion of Agreement.
Mr. & Mrs. P. J. Rowlands and infant	By flight ML 477 Kuching/Singapore on 26.1.61. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.

Kuching Market Price List

December, 1960

	Average
RICE—per gantang	
Local White Government Milled	1.62
Local White Milled	1.75
Siam "A" 25	2.00
Siam "B"	—
Siam "C"	—
Siam Broken Rice All Super	1.38
Siangpan	1.60
SUGAR—per kati	
White Sugar	25
Brown Sugar	25
Nipah Sugar	28
SALT—per kati	
Coarse	28
Fine	30
Nipah	30
FLOUR AND BREAD—	
Wheat Flour per kati	21
Bread per small loaf	21
Bread per large loaf	35
MILK—per tin	
4½ Nestle	41
Libby Brand	37
Tin Pot	37
Milk Moid	41
(2) Local Fresh Milk per pint	40
EGGS—per do	
Turtle	50
Chicken fresh	11
Chicken, salted	17
Pure	14
EDIBLE OILS—(per lb)	
Butter per lb	1.00
Coconut Oil	95
Vegetable Oil	95
Lard No. 1	1.11
Lard No. 2	1.00
Ghee	1.20
Dipping	80
PORE—(per kati)	
Lean No. 1	1.80
Lean with Fat No. 2	2.20
Fat	45
Ribs	1.40
BEEF—(per kati)	
Beef, steak	1.00
Beef, Curry meat	1.60
Beef, No. 1	1.00
Beef, Curry meat	1.60
Mutton (Australian)	1.80
Mutton (Local)	1.00
POULTRY—(per kati)	
Capons	2.30
Chicken Cooks	1.00
Fattens	1.20
Chicken Hens	1.60
Dry, Fat	1.75
Geese	1.85
Muscovy	1.65
Cross-Breed	1.75
Geese	1.65
FISH—(per kati)	
Fresh Fish No. 1	1.60
Fresh Fish No. 2	80
Fresh Fish No. 3	40
Preserved No. 1	1.65
Preserved No. 2	80
Cook No. 1	1.20
Cook No. 2	1.00
Salted Fish No. 1	2.40
Salted Fish No. 2	1.30
Salted Fish No. 3	80

VEGETABLES—(per kati)

Average

Bamboo Shoots (salted)	40
Bamboo (Pickled)	10
Banghuan	15
Beans	20
Bean Sprouts	20
Cabbage	15
Changpok Manis	25
Courmeyer (Thinned)	—
Chilies (Red)	80
Chilies (Green)	50
Daun Bayam	20
Ensalé French	45
Ensalé Borneo	45
Ensalé Borneo	45
French Beans	45
Garlic, fresh	1.00
Onions	20
Kuchang Panjang	40
Kuching Ayer	10
Kuching Roots	20
Keladi (Sweet)	15
Keladi (China)	20
Keladi	15
Korbuang	15
Kumbar	20
Labe	15
Labi Lubi	20
Lada Pinang	20
Lentils	20
Lubau (Chinese Redhead)	20
Lubau, salted	40
Onions, Bombay	25
Onions, small	20
Potatoes, Imported	20
Pink (Bitter Growth)	20
Sambutan, Imported	20
Sambutan, Local	40
Tamarind (Cook Assam)	40
Tomatoes	20
Temp (Bintang)	20
Sauce per bottle No. 1	1.10
Sauce per bottle No. 2	80
Sauce per bottle No. 3	60
TEA—(per lb)	
Ta, Oolong	4.00
Ta, Chinese	1.50
COFFEE—(per kati)	
Raw, Arab, No. 1, Local	2.00
Raw, No. 2	1.80
Roasted	1.00
FRUITS—(each)	
Pineapple (Local) per kati	15
Pineapple (Imported)	18 to 20
Pears	20 to 30
Each kati per box	20
CONDENSED—	
Bean curd per piece	25
Bean curd white per piece	25
Bean curd yellow per piece	25
Blackon per kati	70
Chopped per piece	8.00
Coconut, fresh milk	15
Coconut Milk per tin	1.00
Salted Prawns per kati	1.40 to 2.00
Kanstant Oil per tin	5.00
Kanstant Oil per bottle	25
Minerals Local per tin	20
Minerals Imported per tin	25
Soap, washing local per bar	40
Soap, washing imported per bar	50
Saltine per tin	1.50
Sardines per tin	60
Sake Wood, per panchang	15.00
CRACKERS—	
Flavours per packet of 20	45
Single Bites per packet of 20	35
Crackers "A"	45
Tooth Light	35
Star Biscuits	2.00
Capsons per packet of 20	75
State Express 115 per packet of 10	25
Lucky Biscuits per packet of 20	80



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Sarawak Gazette



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Readers of the Operations will under an obligation by forwarding to the Office early intelligence of all matters of general interest in their respective neighbourhoods.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Sarawak Government nor does it vouch for the veracity of facts herein stated.

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Announcements of engagements, weddings and births for Government Officers will be inserted free of charge.

20-25 cents in cover and Commission should be added to all cheques drawn on banks outside Sarawak.

FEBRUARY, 1961

CALENDAR			MOON PHASES		HIGH WATER			
English	Chinese	Malay	1 1st Last Quarter 2 15th New Moon	3 22nd First Quarter	English	Malay		
Wed. 1	16	15			0914	1825	—	2114
Th. 2	17	16			0934	1824	—	2113
Fri. 3	18	17			0953	1824	—	2112
Sat. 4	19	18						
SUN. 5	20	19			0751	1833	0000	1148
Mon. 6	21	20			0740	1824	0127	1241
Tue. 7	22	21			0721	1804	0441	1343
Wed. 8	23	22			0654	1732	0918	1550
Th. 9	24	23			0621	1611	1454	1800
Fri. 10	25	24			0553	—	—	1900
Sat. 11	26	25			0508	1401	—	1900
SUN. 12	27	26			0417	1212	—	2012
Mon. 13	28	27			0320	1011	—	2115
Tue. 14	29	28			0234	750	—	2211
Wed. 15	1	29						
Th. 16	2	1			0431	7348	—	2306
Fri. 17	3	2			0524	1826	1308	2338
Sat. 18	4	3			0614	1907	—	2313
SUN. 19	5	4			0703	2047	0048	1117
Mon. 20	6	5			0752	2208	0337	1118
Tue. 21	7	6			0844	2308	0504	1115
Wed. 22	8	7			0936	2431	0637	1117
Th. 23	9	8			1029	2536	—	1114
Fri. 24	10	9			1120	2629	—	1000
Sat. 25	11	10			1216	—	—	1054
SUN. 26	12	11			0005	1434	—	1114
Mon. 27	13	12			0100	1514	—	1104
Tue. 28	14	13			0156	1617	—	1009
					0248	1631	—	2114

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