

Sarawak Gazette

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The Sarawak Gazette

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1964

The Royal Visit

For reasons of printing and distribution The Gazette has to be complete as regards most of its copy by the 28th of any month. This means that we could not properly cover National Solidarity Week and the Royal Visit in this November issue. We will do so in more detail, picking out the highlights and only with special articles, in December. Meanwhile, it is our duty and privilege and deep pleasure to start this November issue with great recognition of the long-awaited visit of His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong, accompanied by the Minister-in-Attendance, Dato Sandoz and the Datin, the Grand Chamberlain, Controller of the Royal Household, and other dignitaries.

This great occasion, conjunct with Merdeka Berjaya, should do much to increase Sarawak's consciousness of and pride in Malaysia. It is not always easy for Kuching to find a close link at the grass-roots level, with Kuala Lumpur. It is actually quite difficult for Malak to identify Ratu Merajaya as blood brotherly. The throne stands as symbol of this national identification and full brotherhood. To see our home-own do nothing else but good, lifting the haze, strengthening the mind. We all respectfully hope that further Royal Visits may follow before too long.

[A full report and photographs will be given in the following issue].

The Red Hat Ceremony for Women

by

R. NEANDER and R. NGEN

The Red Hat ceremony is a very expensive one, necessitating one or three years saving by the family who wish to hold it. However, every Land Dayak father endeavours to give his daughter for each daughter, as it establishes her as "a true Dayak" and full member of the community.

The family must rear two or three large peckers as well as a number of chickens. The women of the household are asked to make baskets which will hold pig-lard, while the men decorate bamboo containers for lime powder and water. Before the ceremony begins the family collect lengths of young bamboo, used for cooking Pampang and Mpaung (glutinous rice). Further items required are:

- 30 whole live pigs
- 20 to 30 live chickens
- 1 or 2 jars preserved fish
- 1 or 2 jars preserved hog's meat
- 32 gallons of palm rice
- 30 gallons of ordinary rice
- Several jars of oak wine

The four or five princesses who assist in the celebrations are first handed the bamboo containers and the baskets. They tie a small cloth string to a special bottle called a *Pichang*—a receptacle for keeping the soul—which the girl will carry. Some men are chosen to beat two large drums and make a *Rambling*. Large figures of a bird and a boat are added to this religious carving for the Red Hat ceremony, signifying freedom for the soul both in the air and on water. Wooden knives are made, and bamboo spears decorated with rhinoceros hornbill feathers, bells and buttons, and pieces of red and black cloth.

Each girl prepares for the ceremony by putting on a decorated thin sarong and draping a length of red cloth over head and shoulders, topped by the red hat. She carries five decorated baskets, lime and water containers, a spear, and the *Pichang* for her soul.

Ceremonies are opened by hour-long prayers intended by a priestess sitting on a traditional swing. Early next day, people search the forest for a *Mitrayak* tree (a local soft-wooded variety) which the priestesses bless with blood from a chicken. Prayers are told to the sound of beating drums. The girls discard their ceremonial outfits except for the red cloth, and dance around the tree until they are dizzy and exhausted. Some pretend to faint and are revived by the playing of a flute. Dancing round the *Mitrayak* tree symbolises visiting the spirits of the mountains who call to the souls of future husbands. Ample provision for hungry people is made on this forest trip, wine and preserved pork and fish are brought with the party.

The tree is finally cut down and taken to the long-house where it is erected on the water verandah. The bark is cut off, but otherwise branches and foliage are intact. Three live pigs are caught and tethered near

the tree. Two chickens apiece are tied to the pigs. Cakes, eggs, preserved fish and panggang are tied to the branches of the tree, and when this has been done, people are able to have their meal and wine.

At 8 o'clock that evening the priestesses say prayers seated on the swing, with the red haired girls gathered round. When prayers end, the girls take off their hats and once again make contact with their husbands' souls by dancing round the tree and stepping on the pigs. As the drum beats quieter, so does the girls' dancing until they fall down exhausted.

Next morning, the pigs and chickens tethered round the tree are killed together with thirty or forty other chickens. Some of the pork is chopped and dried on fire, while the rest is used for the meal. The chickens are similarly prepared except that the livers and hearts are cooked with rice in bamboo containers. The priestesses prepare and present offerings of panggang, mpagang, preserved fish, eggs, slices of chicken and pork, rice wrapped in leaves and musk wine, all laid on brass trays.

While this is going on, the *Tinjarut* *Rampah* procession is prepared. Each girl taking part in the ceremony is carried by a man along a path of mats spread from the longhouse to the nearest bathing place. If there are not enough mats to reach the whole way, some already-cracked mats from the back are pulled to the front of the route. On reaching the bathing place the priestesses say prayers and moisten the girls' heads with water shaken from a flower soaked in large earthenware pots. Once again dancing begins to the accompaniment of drums, and the girls are revived by tears when they get exhausted.

Dancing over, the girls bathe and drink water for

the first time in their bamboo containers. From this point onwards for the next three years, they must always wear their red hats, only removing them at bed-time.

Food and wine follows the bathing and the girls are carried back to the longhouse in the same manner as they came. On reaching the longhouse, both girls and priestesses dance briefly round the offerings laid on the verandah, thus greeting the souls of future husbands.

When the evening meal is over, the priestesses offer prayers to the gods of their ancestors, to the Dayak god, and to the spirits of the mountains, thanking them for teaching the methods of paddy planting and requesting health and happiness for the girls. Some of these prayers continue until dawn. Other priestesses join the girls in dancing round the *Mitupahat* tree.

Early in the morning of the final ceremonial day, men collect thirty or forty coconuts and pile them on the outer verandah. Prayers are said while the men give loud cries and hammer the husks. The juice is put in large earthenware pots, then poured over each girl in turn as she sits on the swing. When this is finished, the girls are carried inside the longhouse by men.

This is really the end of the ceremony, but the distribution of any remaining offerings and final feast eight days later for priestesses and participants of wild vegetables and fish.

There are a few taboos that must be observed. The girls must not eat bathing (*ajung*) or *Sambutan* deer (meat) for the smell is displeasing to their future husbands' souls. Malaria and other sicknesses must be guarded against. If any married girls take part in the ceremony, it is taboo to sleep with their husbands for eight nights; they must instead dance round the *Mitupahat* tree.

CONFRONTATION



"We're the most savage, bloodthirsty, lawless tribe in Borneo—we're the 445 Squadron Royal Navy!"

The Transitional Law Period in Sarawak 1927-1941

by

G. V. C. Young

I have, in two previous articles, dealt with Sarawak laws up to the end of June, 1927. From that time onwards the laws of Sarawak took on a "new look". However, although they were drafted in legal form, the majority of the new laws were comparatively simple. For example, the Companies Order was very much shorter and less exhaustive than the corresponding Ordinance enacted in 1926.

By the end of 1933, the Laws of Sarawak were to be found in—

- (1) the Green Book (Orders published prior to the 1st of July, 1927, and modifications under them published prior to the 1st of August, 1932);
- (2) the Red Book (Orders published on or after the 1st of July, 1927);
- (3) the Black Book (Rules, etc., under Orders published on or after the 1st of July, 1927); and
- (4) separate volumes relating to—
 - (a) customs, excise, ports and shipping;
 - (b) the Criminal Procedure Code;
 - (c) Municipal laws;
 - (d) the Penal Code; and
 - (e) postal regulations.

In 1936 a revised edition of the Red Book was published containing all Red Book Orders (as amended) which were variant on the 31st of December, 1935, but excluding the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code which were published in separate volumes. The number of Orders contained in this edition, which was published in 2 volumes, was 81. Between 1936 and 1941, there continued to be quite a spate of new laws and quite a number of the existing laws were amended. By far the most important of the latter was the Sarawak Nationality and Naturalization Order, 1936, which provided that all people born within Sarawak would be subjects of the Rajah. Previously, nationality by birth only applied to Natives. The effect of the amendment was that for the first time Sarawak-born Chinese were recognized as true Sarawakians and were no longer treated as aliens.

Of the new laws enacted during this period, the most important was obviously the Constitution Order (C. 31 of 1941) but I will not comment on it here as I propose to write a separate article on the 1941 Constitution.

Of all the other pre-1941 legislation, the most important from the lawyer's point of view was, in my opinion, the Law of Sarawak Order (L. 4 of 1928) which was an Order "to provide for a general rule in the absence of specific legislation".

Apart from the short title, this Order consisted of only one section which read as follows:—

"The Law of England in so far as it is not modified by Order and other enactments issued by His Highness the Rajah of Sarawak or with his authority, and in so far as it is applicable to Sarawak having regard to native customs and local conditions, shall be the Law of Sarawak."

This brief piece of legislation can well be said to have brought more complications into the law of Sarawak than any other piece of legislation, including the Malaysia Act and the Courts of Judicature Act, 1964. Official notes were published to assist officers in interpreting the law and these notes extended to nearly 25 times the length of the section being explained; but, even after having read them through, I really doubt whether anyone could be sure of what exactly was the law on any point on which the Rajah hadn't actually made a law.

Let us have a closer look at this Order. In effect, it says that, subject to certain exceptions, the Law of England shall be the Law of Sarawak. What, however, does that mean? It is not as clear as it appears to be.

First, does the Law of England mean the statute law of England together with common law and equity or only the statute law?

Secondly, as regards statute law, does the section only import statutes which apply throughout the whole of England or does it (subject to the exceptions in the section) import all the English statutes?

Thirdly, does it mean the Law of England as it was when the Rajah made the Order or the Law of England as it changes from day to day?

None of these questions are particularly easy to answer with certainty and so far as I am aware have not been the subject of any judicial decision. It is of interest to note that they are not answered in the Notes for Guidance.

My own personal view, for what it is worth, is that the law applicable is the common law, the rules of equity and the statute law applicable throughout England from day to day, but subject to the exceptions referred to in the Sarawak Order.

If I am right in my opinion, it means that indirectly the law of Sarawak was primarily controlled by the British Parliament on any subject on which the Rajah had not legislated. This, in my view, was most undesirable because it made for uncertainty in the law and gave the inhabitants of Sarawak, and for that matter the courts, very little opportunity of knowing what the law was. To know the Law of England and all its changes is a mammoth task even for lawyers.

In my view, it was completely wrong for such a type of legislation to be imposed on Sarawak whose courts were, apart from the Judicial Commissioner or Chief Justice (the title changed from time to time), entirely manned by administrative officers.

The problem, however, did not end there because even if the court knew the English law and was in a position to decide that there was no Sarawak law on the point, it had then to decide whether the English law was applicable having regard to native customs and local conditions.

This is a matter on which it is most unlikely for there to be general agreement and tends to lead to the result that the law will differ according to the views of the person constituting the court and, accordingly, militates strongly against certainty and uniformity. Such a position is, in my view, far worse than having 50,000 or even 50,000 pages of laws enacted locally, provided that these pages contain all the written laws applicable to the country.

Let there be Crocodiles A SURVEY OF TOURISM

by HERALD DODD

(M41)

1. Importance of Tourism
2. Preparing the Brochure
3. Tourist Attractions
 - (a) Breeding in Museums
 - (b) Botanic Gardens
 - (c) Scenery and Photography
 - (d) Snakes and Snailgates
 - (e) Scaparium and Sea Life Park
 - (f) Studying the Occupations and Industries of the Country

4. Creation of "Gimmicks"
 - (a) Delivering the Mail
 - (b) Department of Fairies and Legends
 - (c) Certificates of Achievement
5. Participating in Local Customs
6. Dancing Trains
7. Getting down to Business
 - (a) Building the Hotel
 - (b) Training the Guides
 - (c) Manufacturing the Souvenirs
8. Conclusion.

1. IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM

In an official pamphlet "New Zealanders Abroad" the Minister of Tourism and Publicity is quoted as saying "An American tourist on a 16-day visit to this country brings in as much revenue as the export of 190 cases of apples or 95 fat lambs or 354 bats of wool. And you don't grow those in 16 days."

The pamphlet reminds the New Zealanders going abroad that the tourist industry is vital to the economy of New Zealand, that tourists mean treasure, and asks him to strike a blow for his country's tourist operations.

As an English tourist in New Zealand for a period of 35 days it was romantic to think of oneself as the equivalent of some 200 sheep nibbling contentedly on a green hillside, snow-crowned peaks in the distance, yellowing poplar trees marking the limits of the farms—but rather uncomfortable to feel that a particular New Zealand butcher would be seeing my wife and myself, jointly as it were, as some 800 shoulders and 800 legs of prime Canterbury lamb.

Tourism is big business. It needs careful planning if it is to bring in the golden harvest. The following study is submitted for the guidance of those who will eventually form a Sarawak Travel Bureau.

2. PREPARING THE BROCHURE

Essential—the production of glossy brochures, in bright colours, with a master-mind to devise just the right wording to attract, to sway, to convince. When photographs are taken the scenery must be at its best, clothes colourful, faces happy and content, a friendly air of get-together. The telling phrases are:— "A highlight that's a must," "Never a dull moment," "An unforgettable experience."

The superlatives attract. The longest, the shortest, the biggest, the smallest, the highest, the lowest—in the world, if possible, if not then let it be in the superlatives in the southern hemisphere or northern hemisphere. The attraction of the cooling-off Buddha in the temple of WAT PO in Bangkok is that it is the longest Buddha. In New Zealand you are shown the largest man-made forest in the world, the highest mountains in the Southern hemisphere.

Let us glance at the New Zealand Tourist Bureau pamphlet on Milford sound. This beauty spot is presented in an atmosphere of perpetual sun and shadow, snowy peaks and blue skies. Past—Milford sound is renowned as a place where it rains well over 200 days of the year and the famous Milford Track is most frequently walked in rain and mud.

Let's take a page from a famous brochure and adapt it to a Mini setting. "The Sightseeing Tour of Panama" brochure.

"After leaving the Museum the drive continues through the grounds of the Gorgas Hospital. It is in this hospital that the never ending fight against tropical disease is waged. From there you will drive past the Canal Zone Administration Building. This is where the Canal Zone Governor and the Administration Executives of the Canal operation have their offices.

Then through the Zone Towns of Ancon and Balboa seeing such sights as the Balboa High School, Balboa Commissary and Clubhouse, and the annual homes that the employees of the Canal Zone inhabit."

It's simple in a Mini setting. "After crossing the River Min in a quiet old-world ferry the drive continues through the grounds of Mini Hospital. It is in this hospital, etc. From there you will drive past the Golf Course to picturesque Pinnas where we see the actual houses that the SMOs employees inhabit, and so to Loring and the SMOs Administration Buildings. There follows a tour of the Refinery which handles the oil of the fabulous Suez oilfield and pumps it to the tankers on the horizon. You will be fascinated by this "Plate" of the China Sea."

3. TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

(a) *Bringing in Museums*

The Museums of London and Paris, Christchurch, Panama, Singapore—wherever the weather they'll attract the tourist who loves to browse. Sarawak is well to the far here for few museums can compare with the Natural Museum in terms of unique fascinating exhibits. Museum guide books, postcards and transparencies—that's where the money comes pouring in, whether it's the Larutan or the Museum of the Training Terry House. Hotels near Museums do fine business—perhaps that's why the Nile Hilton is situated right next door to the Cairo Museum and its treasures of Tutankhamen.

(b) *Botanical Gardens*

A never-fading attraction—the Botanical Gardens at Sydney, at Singapore, at Hagley Park in Christchurch, at Kingston Jamaica, at Princesby in Colombo.

The orchid, the gardenia ("one each for the ladies") the Bane of Sharon that changes its colour as the day wears on, the collection of cactus leaves, cactus and ferns. Exotic blooms, colourful foliage.

(c) *Scenery and Photography*

Find a waterfall, give it a romantic name, and you have an attraction for the tourist. He loves a waterfall—he can stand at least one a day. He compares theirs, their height, their spray and splash and their beauty.

It would be frustrating if with some 180 inches of rain as more per annum Sarawak failed to lay on the waterfalls. They cost nothing to produce. A rhythmic poetic name reminds the fact that it's just a volume of water obeying the law of gravity. "Hidai Vail" is a poetic name for the law-like pattern of the water.

Tourists love to be photographed, and are very ready to pay quite high prices for photographs of their experiences on their travels. (e.g. with the Pearl Divers at Milford, with the mountain guide at the Hornetgate with everybody in old-clothes setting off for adventure on the glacier.) Tourism brings a boom in photographic materials—for the constant aim of the tourist is to record what he sees.

The bait for the photographs to be taken—this is a vital part of tourism and the popular guide is one who baits at the strange beauty spot or historical buildings and allows ample time for the cameras to get to work.

Notice how this well-written brochure holds out the hope of photography in a perfect setting. The brochure for the "Cecil Peak Sheep Station"—

"Visitors are driven in a 24-seater coach, 174 miles up a delightfully pretty valley to the 100 year old homestead, surrounded by lovely old English trees. On the way visitors have the opportunity to photograph the stud cattle, horses, sheep and other farm animals, besides the pet deer and lambs, the new bush and hand-fed pheasants. A substantial morning or afternoon tea is provided on the patio in the sun or on the lawn near shady old trees."

and a similar "Yellow River"

(d) Statuettes and Statuesque

A grand attraction. The guide usually starts his story outside the cave, explaining how it was discovered. At the Crystal Cave, Bermuda "In 1907 a boy was looking for a lost ball and he climbed down a chain and . . ." Elsewhere it's often the story of a lost sheep and a searching farmer. In showing you round the cave the guide conjures up all sorts of imaginary figures and groupings—the Cathedral group, the choir, the organ loft, the Christmas scene at the Manger, the hotel scenes, Rebecca and her pious.

At Bermuda the stalagmites are most unusual. The sea has invaded the cave and covered the floor to a depth of several feet. Visitors proceed through the cave on a floating platform which rises and falls with the tide. Many stalagmites now assume the weird underwater shapes of a Turk's Island, a Prussian helmet, a New York skyline of skyscrapers and one can let one's imagination wander freely.

It's a natural—if Nature is kind enough to provide it. A clever lighting system can turn a cave of stalactites and stalagmites into a glittering fairland.

(e) Seaparcium

Until recently a simple Aquarium satisfied the tourist. Collect some coloured fish, add some vicious-looking eels, a few quaint 'sea-horries', some giant crabs, drop the lot in a large well-lit glass tank and you were in the money. Things have changed. The Seaparcium at Miami has set a new high standard of sea-life entertainment. It's too slicked. Outside in a part of the gold-domed Sea Circus Arena seals perform and porpoises play water-polo. Then the customers move to the top gallery of the half million gallon main tank, and see porpoises leap for fish, retrieve balls on the water and put them on their heads. And now—not a minute's interval—it's feeding time on the floor of this monstrous circular glass tank. Visitors go underground and see the divers decanted with buckets of food for the giant fish, and turtles swarm around the bobbing divers and threaten to pounce their diving kit. Outside once more—for the feeding of the alligators. Then back to the main building for a quick drink for a thirsty passing human—and it's one o'clock and time to leave. And as you're leaving there's an announcement—the whole programme is starting up again in the water-polo pool.

In Honolulu the name's different—it's the Sea Life Park—but the show and showmanship is the same. Porpoises and dolphins up to their tricks again and 'underground' view of a coral reef and its multi-coloured fish inhabitants.

For Sarawak—possible, I think. Where tropical seas are calm the wonder of the world of fish can be seen without the expense of building a Seaparcium. At places such as TAHITI and BERMUDA visitors travel in a glass-bottomed boat to the coral sea and observe the coloured fish in their natural surroundings. This boat is not for Sarawak waters I think.

(f) Occupation and Industries

After a while one can have a surfeit of even the most attractive scenery and there is an urge to see something other than mountains and valleys, forest and meadows. This is where the Yokado Adventure Tour, organised by Japan Travel Bureau, can teach us a valuable lesson in tourism. This is a pleasantly fascinating five-day motor-coach journey from glittering Tokyo to climatic Kyoto along the route followed by samurai, warriors and nobleman centuries ago. It is not just a scenic drive. One can see something of the occupations of the people—at Arimatsu the special dying process for Kimonos designs, at Nippon the Nippon Tōki factory where they make 'Nishikie China', at Mikimoto the complete process of pearl culture. Let us look more closely at the Mikimoto visit. However, miserable the weather the last pearl divers demonstrate their skill.

Afterwards each visiting party is photographed with the divers and their baskets (the prices are available almost immediately—they are not cheap but who would forgo such a happy souvenir?).

Indeed, experts explain each stage of pearl culture, selection and marketing—and finally, yes, there's a chance to buy Mikimoto pearls on Mikimoto Pearl Island within the sight of the statue of Mikimoto himself. A memorable, instructive visit—and a very good source of revenue.

Here Sarawak comes into her own—we could have visits to a sugar factory, and early morning outings to rubber gardens. For visitors to the pepper-gardens, we could have souvenir packs of pepper corns and pepper-mills could do a roaring trade. In 1957 the Sarawak Scout contingent to the World Jamboree in England staged an exhibition of pepper berries and pepper-milling at their camp site. The pepper had been kindly donated by Chinese friends in Kuching and the giant pepper-mills were loaned by the Peter Piper Pepper Mill Company. This exhibition aroused great interest and—a point to note—not one visitor in a hundred had worn a pepper-mill before.

4. Customs or 'Unusuals'

(a) Delivering the Mail

A never-failing attraction is to travel on a full-day boat expedition, 'delivering the mail'. The notice normally read "Travel by steamer and see the mail delivered to lonely hamlets. Three times a week only. Picnic lunches. Sailing time leaves at 9.00 a.m. prompt." This is a winner. The mail has to be delivered anyway. With careful timing the trip can be open out to a full day expedition. No need to make the customers too comfortable. Pack in a dozen cows and a few more sheep for delivery en route. At places as far apart as The Nordfjord in Norway and Picton in the South Island of New Zealand this expedition is an attractive money-spinner.

"Delivering the mail" could easily be organised from, say, Marak. At the moment the delivery of personal and Government mail upriver from Marak still depends on the casual traveller taking it by hand. "Join a summer-trip to historic Marak, former capital of the Fourth Division. See the mail delivered to houses and hamlets bordering the mighty Barun. Picnic lunch at Long Lapet. Return to Marak same day."

(b) Department of Fairies and Legends

The Whiting well, the Whiting tree, the Whiting stone are all part of tourism. How lucky is the tourist who goes on the magnificently organised outing to MOKOA Island, the scene of New Zealand's greatest romance and the refuge for the Arawa tribe in time of trouble. He's lucky because this really is a memorable experience—the journey from Rotorua by M.V. NIARONGI, the wooded island, the peace and calm, the love story of HINEMOA and TUTANEKEA—and then the famous whiting stone. We quote—"Kia-ma (good luck) says the famous whiting stone of Arawa to those who lay a palm on its weather pitted surface. Legend has it that this will make your dearest wish come true".

I wondered who had composed this bit. A Cornish emigrant perhaps, coming from Looe or Fowey where Cornish fairs and pikes are responsible for a thriving tourist business in wishing wells and lucky charms.

(c) Certificate of Achievement

To add to the adventure, to give a sense of achievement you must have notices telling the visitor that it is all at his own risk and no responsibility can be accepted, etc. Nowhere are notices displayed more prominently than at Rotorua—and justifiably so—warning visitors about stepping off the paths into soft thermal patches. One step can be fatal for immersions of a foot or leg into boiling mud causes most ghastly wounds.

At the end of the day it is fun to issue certificates of achievement—and they are greatly prized. The New Zealand Tourist Bureau issues beautifully printed souvenir certificates of achievement, with name inserted, dated and signed, for such activities as landing by shipplane on the Tasman Glacier. Sarawak could issue a Certificate of Achievement for ash travel, etc.

5. PARTICIPATING IN LOCAL CUSTOMS

The American tourist loves to be told about old customs. Coming from a New World background the everyday business of getting rich in the rat-race, Americans have a special affection for the old, the enduring, the touch of ceremonial and tradition.

At Winchester the old St. Cross Hospital, a fine old resort for the aged poor, provides traditionally for every visitor a piece of farmhouse bread and a horn of country ale. The custom goes back to the days when a pilgrim would have journeyed many miles on foot to the shelter of the hospital and needed refreshment before setting out on his next stage, a far cry to the present day when the American tourist within an hour of landing at Southampton has arrived in a chauffeur driven Rolls limousine to see the Hospital, its Chapel and unique dwellings and, above all, claim the "traveler's debt". He does just that throughout the tourist season. It's a custom—a gemstick if you like—that he's heard about way across the Atlantic and so his first visit is not to Winchester Cathedral or Winchester College but to St. Cross Hospital and its refreshment.

To cater for this tourist demand for old-world customs many English villages have revived customs that had nearly faded into oblivion by sheer disuse, customs that belonged to a simple age when the village was a complete social unit. As a result we have the publication by British Travel Association of a booklet "Old Customs and Ceremonial in Britain".

The introduction to this interesting well-illustrated booklet is right in the tradition of tourism publicity. "From time immemorial Britain has so cherished her old customs and ceremonial that the visitor who looks for and studies them will deepen his knowledge of the country and enrich his travels. Wherever you journey in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern-Ireland always ask 'What old customs have you here?'—for the civic and social life is a rich tapestry of traditional usage".

6. DANCING TRUEN

National or local dancing is an essential tourist attraction—to be laid on as the evening activity after dinner. The dancing can be staged in a hall or in a large band, preferably the latter as the customers would like a drink. Visitors to Sarawak may see Maori dancing at the Town Hall. Visitors to Bangkok may see Thai dancing at the Rama Hotel. Sarawak can do this style. During the tourist season we could have Dayak dancing, a Malay troupe, a Lion dance team, the Ramayana folk and so on. Great versatility, immense variety, colourful and compelling.

Programmes for the evening should be signed by the Dancing Truen leader—they are greatly prized. (e.g. Maori Guide Rangi signs programmes at her Dancing concerts.)

7. GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

(a) Building the Month

A Government launching a Tourism programme must initially be prepared to build, staff and administer its own hotels at key tourist centres—and to do this at a loss perhaps. Tourism cannot operate with third-class hotels lacking comfort and amenities, a constant source of complaints and discontent.

Given a comfortable hotel, with air-conditioned bedrooms with their own bath and toilet, a cosy bar, a supply of cigars—and the tourists will ensure all kinds long rooms, a colonial lounge and a plentiful of discomforts during the day's outings. Indeed access and snug in their hotel (five-star, "Nothing but the best for my Saddle"). American tourists will happily boast and brag of the dangers and discomforts of the day. The perils of the incredible diary drive up Sappers (Queenstown, New Zealand) in a riotous minibus, as it skids along the winding track and thousands at every corner to tumble down into the old gold-mining canyons—those perils take on a rosy evening glow in the lounge of Queenstown's famous hoteliers, O'Connell's & Richards's ("Say, Elmer, I never liked that bit about the wear and tears on the tyres—never more than two wheels on the road in the mountain stretch so the tyres have a double life! Whangarei, Elmer.") Or again the hazardous scramble down the rock-strewn Tasman gorge to reach the glaciers—the hands gripped on the dangling rope, the wet clothes and the bruised knees become housewifely sounds proudly shown in the luxurious lounge of The Harrington Hotel.

So, let there be crocodiles by day—they will be exported of us. (They can well be tame hand-fed crocs, phosphate, kept in a secluded back-water)—but let there be luxury comfort at night.

Sarawak might initially have only one Tourist hotel, somewhere near Kuching, with activities restricted to the First Division. It would be the National Holiday Centre with everything at one spot—accommodation, meals, information, exhibitions and films, transport and dancing team headquarters.

(b) Training the Guides

Guides can make or mar the pleasure of the tourist. On the whole guides are abominably bad. In several tourist cities guides have to pass Examinations in local knowledge before they are licensed. Audibility should be high on the list of essential attributes. What a joy it is to have a guide in whom you have confidence, able to hold your attention, willing to wait until he has his little flock around him, brief and clear and interesting in his explanations. Many guides are off-hand, hazy, anxious only to race through their picture gallery or Cathedral as quickly as possible.

Our guides should be trained—they are the people who leave the lasting impression on the visitor. Let's have guides with a cheerful personality, and brains with large observation windows. Let's avoid the statistical guide. Two visits to Versailles left very different impressions. On the first occasion the Palace guide made the past come to life so vividly that you kept on feeling that you'd meet Louis the Fourteenth, the Sun King, round the very next corner. On the second occasion, alas, the guide concentrated on the measurements of each room and the value in American dollars of almost everything we saw—he would have made a good auctioneer.

(c) Manufacturing the Souvenirs

In general tourists the world over are quite unscrupulous. In any tourist town the gift shops are crowded within five minutes of the arrival of coach-loads of tourists.

Cheap jewellery, brass-wares, dolls, tin-tinns, head-scarves, ash-trays, cigarette boxes, table mats with local scenes, condiment sets, egg cups, serviettes, rings, tortoiseshells and beetle-spears, brooches, leather purses, calendars and key-rings, all the bric-a-brac of the gift shop is bought and carried lovingly to the coach.

The half-hour stop for shopping (usually this means a waste of a good hour) is part and parcel of tourism. It's the same the tourist world over, the stop for the souvenirs and then the wait while the guide collects his commission on the total sales of his party.

Manufacturing the tourist shirt must be a very profitable business. The Tuluhan shirt, the Jambeian shirt, the Hutanian shirt—why not a Sarawakian shirt with prints of traditional Dayak designs?

B. IN CONCLUSION

In these days of the affluent society many Western world families have money enough to travel. For some, a short trip abroad. For others round the world. The celebrated World Tour route—London, Paris, Rome, Athens, Egypt, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan is now within the reach of thousands, and is losing its status symbol. The new Status Symbol is the unusual "side-tour", the journey off the beaten track such as a little known Creek Island or the temple of Angkor Wat or Milford Sound in the South of Southern Island New Zealand. Sarawak would be an attractive side-tour for the richer tourists arriving at Singapore.

Tourists could be encouraged to come to Sarawak for a limited season only. The season could be April; August with Ragatan in the central attraction,—the usual canoe and outrigger races, exhibitions, dancing competitions and torchlight processions.

Dragon or Naga

by

ROBERT SAMPSON

According to the Iban legend, the dragon or *Naga* is a huge snake with a horn protruding from its forehead and a business house (goldsmith) store in the centre of its breast, with which it lights its way at night.

There are two species of dragons; one lives in the sea or in a pool in the river; while another lives on the mountain top. The dragon is a scaly snake and has several pairs of wings, legs, arms, eyes and sharp claws and teeth.

The one which lives on the mountain top kills with its crested tail. It spits venom and can breathe fire from its mouth. It sucks its prey with its breath. Before it chomps the prey it grins fearfully. In Sabah it is historically considered that a dragon lives on the summit of Kinabalu mountain.

In conjunction with the belief in mythical dragons, the Iban values the old jar called "Tulan Manang", which is decorated with the figures of dragons. The cost price of this typical jar ranges from RM300 to MY150. To worship the dragon, the Iban regularly offers an offering to his dragon jar by way of the "Rede" paper. The Iban women also depict the pictures of dragons on their woven blankets, while the men carve them on the handles and sheaths of their knives.

It was said by the Ulu Ai Iban during the Chulera Expedition against Pengulu Bantia of Delok in 1902, before the arrival of the Government forces at the mouth of Delok river in the upper Batang Ai, that they saw a huge dragon track going down from the hill to the river. During the following night Bantia had a dream. He dreamt that he met a huge dragon which told him not to worry about the enemy as he (the dragon) would fight for him.

Eventually, when the Government forces under the command of the Raja Muda (Sir Charles Vyner Brooke) and the Residents of the Second and Third Divisions (Messrs. Bailey and Dehcoe) reached Nanga Delok, out of twelve thousand warriors, two thousand had perished from cholera, which caused the expedition to retreat.

In the Ulu Ai, the present Pengulu Ngali Ah, Kijang of Nanga Delok related that this dreadful creature which had saved the Ulu Ai Iban from being killed by the Government Jala (punitive expedition) in 1902

has resided in the Ulu Ai until the present day.

During the Japanese Occupation, while he was on the way to collect ulong palm for his house, an Iban named Kama saw a long huge scaly reptile crawling along a roadside at Laha Lasa. He was afraid and did not dare to attack it, as he had no one to accompany him. This reptile was surely a sea dragon.

In 1959 when I travelled to the upper Rejang and Balak rivers, the Iban there informed me that the late Temenggong Kiah also, like the late Pengulu Bantia, was helped by a dragon who resided at the mouth of Laha Lasa in the Rejang delta. It was due to this that whenever the late Temenggong was worried by the enemy he would throw an offering into the river to appeal for immediate help from his dragon god. He did this during the fighting against the Japanese soldiers at the town of Song during the liberation days in 1945.

In Mukah a woman named Penda of Silat, when paddling her boat at Lubok Prepas, saw a dragon floating close to her boat. On seeing it she caught its horn which broke off. She floated from the shock and while she was unconscious the dragon told her to keep the horn safely, as it was a charm which would enable her male descendants to become brave in war. When she regained consciousness she discovered a horn still in her grip which she kept in her possession till this day.

In the Niah river in 1960, Tasi Ramah Pasing of Pangkalan Lohang informed me that an Iban, Gindil, of Mincing, had seen a large head of a dragon at a certain waterfall in the Ulu Libal stream situated between the Niah and Sibak rivers. The head of this reptile according to Gindil was like a large comb of a cock. Being afraid at the sight of such a strange thing Gindil ran away.

The Iban believe that whenever a person dies in this world, thousands of his or her relatives who have already died will come from the other world to fetch his or her soul to live with them in the Mandai Mal land—an Iban name for the other world. On their way to Mandai Mal, on reaching the "Pene Tarak" (Door to Earth) which separates this world from the next, a guardian dragon is mentioned in the following morning song:—

Then spoke the maiden Simba:⁽¹⁾
Wife, when she died was transformed into a hawk.
"Where are you maiden Jara?"⁽²⁾
Who wears a single red pelage stone,
And you maiden Irah?⁽³⁾
Who is lively and gay?
Please open the door of the dragon snake;
The door of red soil;
So that we can have a way to return to our country,
In the forest full of small orange trees;
With flowers all upside down!⁽⁴⁾
"We have no time!
Rapid the dragon snake,
Because we are doing most important work,
Having been asked by Panga and Laha.
To weave for them coloured petticoats,
Which they will wear on a short expedition,
To the mouth of the Kama river."⁽⁵⁾
If they return from thence,
They will bring for us two lumps
Of precious greenish stone,⁽⁶⁾
As big as arua-aru.⁽⁷⁾

Notes:

- (1) The mistress of the dead.
- (2) A polite name for Nuhun Naga (dragon) who guards the door to earth.
- (3) A nickname of maiden Jara.
- (4) The Iban believe that all things beyond the door to earth in the other world are upside down.
- (5) The Kama (dragons) were the traditional enemy of the Iban since the days of Saragat I, generations ago.
- (6) The heads of enemy collected during the war.

Pieces from the Brooke Past—VII

Selected from the State Archives

by
W. A. CHARLEY

FLAGS

It is recorded that after James Brooke had been proclaimed Rajah of Sarawak, in September, 1841, he adopted the flag of St. George's—a red cross on a white background,—in the form of a swallow-tailed pennant, as his own personal symbol of authority. It was this flag which was flown over his first fort at Beludah, and was carried in the war boats of the Malay and Dayak Chiefs who supported him during the early, turbulent years of his rule. A few of these much-prized flags could still be seen in the longhouses of the descendants of some of these Dayak Chiefs in the Saribas and Strang Rivers areas until the commencement of the war with Japan in 1941,—exactly a hundred years later,—where they were regarded as "pusaka" or hereditary, family property, which could not be disposed of.

It was not until 1845 that the Rajah decided to give the country a flag of its own, but owing to continual unforeseen delays, it was not eventually first hoisted until the 21st September, 1848. This flag was designed by the Rajah himself and was said to have been made up from the half purple and half red cross of his Armoiral Bearings, on a yellow ground,—yellow being the Royal colour of Borneo. But this statement is misleading since the colour of the cross in the Brooke Armoiral Bearings is later described in a letter written by the second Rajah, as blue and red.

Having designed a flag, the Rajah then applied in 1845 to Lord Palmerston and Earl Grey, Ministers for Foreign and Colonial Affairs, for the Government's recognition of Sarawak by allowing a *Provinciate* flag to be displayed. In November, 1846, Lord Palmerston informed the Rajah that this was a matter on which Her Majesty's Government were not yet prepared to decide. Then, in September, 1848, the position between the Rajah and the British Government still being the same, the Rajah,—impetuously,—decided to hoist the Sarawak flag. In March the following year, the Rajah wrote again to Lord Palmerston saying that he hoped that if sanctioned by the British Government the act would afford permanency to the country to which Lord Palmerston replied three months later that Her Majesty's Government approved the proceedings. But Sarawak still had to wait for another fifteen years (January, 1863) before Britain would recognize it as an independent state, and for another thirty-five years (June, 1898) before Britain would guarantee its protection. Subsequently, the Rajah expressed regret that the flag did not contain a quartered Union Jack.

The only recorded "eye-witness" account of the first hoisting of the Sarawak flag is given in a book, "Letters from Sarawak." These letters were written in 1851 by Mrs. McDougall, wife of Bishop McDougall, to her young son, Charley, who was at school in England and later published,—by chance,—by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to help to raise funds for their mission's work in Sarawak. Charley was found to die a year after these letters had been written following a blow from a cricket ball.

Mrs. McDougall writes:

"The Sarawak flag is a purple and red cross, out of Sir James Brooke's armoiral shield, on a yellow background, yellow being the Royal colour of Borneo. It was given by the Rajah to his people on his return from England in 1848 and I remember well what a grand occasion it was. H.M.S. *Albatross* was at Sarawak (the old name for Kuching) at the time, and their band played, 'God Save the Queen', as the flag was for the first time hoisted on the flag-staff before the Rajah's house. All the Rajahs (probably only two) were assembled there, and a

great crowd of natives, Malays and Dayaks, whom the Rajah addressed in the Malay language telling them that the flag which he had that day given them would, he hoped, be their glory and protection, as the flag of England had been here. . . . The Malays listened with love and reverence to his words and from my house across the river, I could hear their exclamations. . . ."

The only other writer to describe the cross as being purple and red is Gertrude Jacob in "The Rajah of Sarawak" (1876) but she is only quoting Mrs. McDougall. All other writers for the next twenty years (until 1879) who mention the flag give the colours of the cross as blue and red.

The question now arises, was Mrs. McDougall right? Were the colours of the cross on the flag which she saw first hoisted in fact purple and red? As she witnessed this ceremony from the top of one hill to the top of another, nearly a mile away, with the main part of the town and the Sarawak River in between, she might easily have been mistaken. Also, the Rajah's words which she relates are not first hand since she was not actually present on the spot. Again, she was writing to a young boy, probably with no thought of her letters ever being published, and she would, therefore, not have been concerned with accuracy and, in fact, some of these letters may well contain a certain amount of fiction in order to make them more interesting. Nevertheless, Mrs. McDougall's description of the flag, which was printed in 1852, during the lifetime of the first Rajah (he died in 1868) is not recorded as ever having been questioned, and neither has Gertrude Jacob's repetition of Mrs. McDougall's description in "The Rajah of Sarawak" printed in 1876 during the time of the second Rajah who was noted to be a person who always insisted on accuracy in matters of this nature. It might be argued that "Letters from Sarawak" was too childish to be of interest to anyone in Sarawak and thus escaped attention, but the same could not be said of "The Rajah of Sarawak".

Is Mrs. McDougall still using her imagination when she explains the background of the flag as being yellow because it is the Royal colour of Borneo when the background of the Brooke shield is gold, which when applied to a flag would be represented by yellow? Or is it more coincidence that both explanations should fit?

The first recorded official notification regarding the Sarawak flag was issued by the second Rajah on the 7th May, 1850. It was primarily concerned with the dimensions of the flag and the number which should be hoisted on Outstations but contained this sentence: "Black hunting to be used in place of Blue". This seems to confirm that the cross was originally blue and red and also denotes the time of the change to black and red, which are its present colours. But no reason for the change was given at the time and a careful search through the State Archives failed to reveal anything except a clue in an odd sentence in an angry letter in the second Rajah's letter books addressed to the Borneo Company Limited, regarding them flying the Sarawak flag over their Singapore office, written one year later, in May, 1858.

It reads:

"It is the Sarawak flag which was arranged in England at the Herald's Office from the Brooke Armoiral Bearings, the only trivial difference was in the colour of part of the cross (blue to black), which it was thought would be an improvement in a flag".

In a later letter the Rajah mentions that for that office he paid the Herald's Office the sum of £100.

The second Rajah gave flags to three local bodies in Kuching,—the S.P.G. Mission (1871), the Borneo

Company (1874); and the Roman Catholic Mission (1906)—but none of these seem to have been used for any length of time, and certainly, none are used at present.

S.P.G. Mission

The S.P.G. flag became officially recognised by a notification in the *Sarawak Gazette* dated 7th May, 1871, which read:

"The Mission has been granted a quartering of a Christian Badge or Monogram in the flag.

This is to be recognised as the Mission Flag."

This happened during the time of Bishop Chambers but when, he retired in 1881 he was succeeded by Bishop Hens who asked the Rajah's permission to incorporate his own armorial bearings in the mission flag. This, the Rajah had to refuse since he was of the opinion that a precedent of this nature might lead to a change in the mission flag with each succeeding Bishop.

The Borneo Company Limited

The flag given to the Borneo Company by the Rajah in 1874 was a Sarawak flag with a blue border as in this form it could be used by their offices outside Sarawak. The following is the text of the letter of May, 1880 referred to above which also deals with this flag.

"Messrs The Borneo Co., Ltd.,
LONDON.

Singapore.
May 21st, 1880.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to draw your notice to the fact of the flag now used by the Borneo Company in Singapore, and I conclude in other branches of your company throughout the world, is the Sarawak flag. . . . The first time we heard the Sarawak flag was being used by the Borneo Co., Ltd., was when the company acquired a flag for the vessel, "The Sarawak". It was then arranged that a blue border should be put around the flag for a distinguishing mark, and I fully understood that this blue border be used throughout all your branches. . . . I was as you may imagine, somewhat surprised in finding the Sarawak flag flying at the wharf before the manager's house in "New Harbour" (Singapore) on coming to the other day. I should much prefer the blue border being adopted, and the Sarawak flag not used excepting in its proper place, or by vessels belonging to Sarawak, or in Sarawak. I leave you, therefore, to judge that if being used outside Sarawak it tends to lead to mistakes or misconceptions from the public as much as a misplaced seal or signature might do. It is perhaps late in the day to make complaint about this matter, but I am only just cognisant of the fact of it being still used by the Borneo Co., Ltd., or I should have brought it to your notice before, and that that there will be no trouble or at any rate very little, in making so slight an alteration which will quite satisfy us.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

C. BROOKE."

It is recorded that this flag was used for a short time by the Kuching office but no reason is given for it being discontinued. However, two very good reasons could possibly have been, first, it was too ugly, second, the blue border being a Chinese sign of mourning might have been considered unlucky for business.

The Roman Catholic Mission

The Roman Catholic Mission was granted its flag by an Order dated 26th June, 1906, which read:

"The Roman Catholic Mission has been granted permission to use a Sarawak flag with a white diagonal Cross quartered in the head of it."

The *Sarawak Gazette* records the first hoisting of the flag thus:

"A new flagstaff has recently been erected in front of the R.C. Mission Headquarters. The Mission flag, kindly presented by His Highness the Rajah, was hoisted for the first time on the morning of the 26th September, 1906, the Rajah's Master's birthday.

A Guard of Honour was drawn up for the occasion, and the flag, having been blessed by the Superior of the Mission, was saluted by a salvo of guns. The Sarawak Hymn, sung by the schoolboys, concluded the proceedings."

The following is another typical Brooke gesture regarding the use of the Sarawak flag which is taken from the second Rajah's letter books. The person referred to is Mr. D.J.S. Bailey, a Sarawak Government Officer (1888-1909) who served most of his time as Resident, Simanggang.

"KNOW YE ALL MEN WHOM IT MAY CONCERN that I, Charles Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, do grant with pleasant full permission to Colonel Bailey of Lightarm Court, to hoist and make use of the Sarawak flag whenever he may judge necessary in order to commemorate the many years of valuable and zealous service of his Brother Demetrius in the State of Sarawak.

C. BROOKE

Rajah

Given under my hand and seal this 1st day of June, 1911."

The second Rajah had his own personal pendant or badge which he passed on to his son the Rajah Muda (later third Rajah) together with the right to use the royal yellow umbrellas by a proclamation of June, 1904.

It was the second Rajah's custom to present his own personal pendant to chiefs who assisted him in expeditions against rebel tribes, a custom which I have already mentioned was also observed by the first Rajah. Many of these flags can still be seen in the longhouses principally in the Second Division of Sarawak.

This same pendant is now used as the personal flag of the Governor of Sarawak.

Sir James Brooke and British Recognition of Sarawak

by

Dr. L. R. WILSON
(University of Hong Kong)

PART I

Brunei

In the mid-16th century the Malay state of Brunei claimed sovereignty over all of present day Malaysian Borneo.¹ Sarawak, the area around the river of the same name, was the northernmost province of the sultanate. Before 1508 Brunei had been a tributary of Majapahit and of China. Islam came to Brunei with the sultan of Malacca. In the 16th century Brunei reached its greatest extent and glory. The Sultan ruled over all of northern Borneo, the Sulu Archipelago and part of the Philippines. For a short time Manila paid tribute to Brunei. Pigafetta, the historian of Magellan's voyage, described the magnificence of the sultan's court in 1521.² At about this time also Yano Pires noted that the Brunei people were traders in gold, wax, honey, rice and sugar with Malacca.³ A century later Brunei was still powerful enough to consider going to the aid of Pahang in a war with Johore.⁴ In the 16th Brunei and the Sulu people attacked Spanish settlements in the Philippines.

The Spaniards in revenge sacked and burned Brunei in 1645. From the middle of the 17th century the decline of Brunei was steady. By the mid-18th century the sultan was no longer able to rule effectively beyond Brunei town. His authority was nominal on the northwest coast with some residual respect for his title. Brunei had not for many years been able to control the Ika, Dupak of the Saribas and Skening rivers or the other tribes of Borneo. Bintulu and the Rejang areas, Brunei, like the Malay states of the peninsula noted by Mills,² was decaying. The coast north of Brunei was controlled by Chinese pirates with a fortified town at Tamparuk and a stronghold at Pandanan in Sabah.³ Brunei was a pirate mart second only to Sulu in notoriety in Sulu. The Brunei rajah supported and supplied the pirate fleets.⁴

The arrival of James Brooke

When James Brooke arrived in Kuching in 1839 the Malaya of Sarawak were resisting the attempts of the Brunei governor to establish his despotic rule. A Brunei prince, Raja Muda Hassan, had been sent to put down the rebellion. Brooke helped Muda Hassan to re-establish Brunei authority. As part of the bargain Sarawak was to be given to Brooke to rule. He gained the trust and affection of Malaya and Dayak alike by insisting on their benevolent treatment in the pirate terms. Yet Sarawak was not finally handed over to Brooke until he made a show of force. The Brunei propensities then with the Malay chiefs accepted Brooke as the ruler. The opportune arrival of an East India Company warship helped. The sultan confirmed the arrangement in 1842.

From 1841 Brooke urged Britain to establish a naval station, protectorate or colony on the coast. In 1844 Brooke was appointed British diplomatic agent to deal with the sultan of Brunei "to facilitate the suppression of piracy" and for the protection of British trade. He was also commissioned to find a place for a naval station, and Labuan island, near the entrance to Brunei Bay, was ceded to Britain in 1846. It was constituted a colony and Brooke became the first governor. At the same time he was knighted and elevated to the diplomatic post of consul to Brunei.

With the aid of ships and officers of the British navy the raja carried on warfare against Borneo pirates. He directed the decisive blows which destroyed their power in the area. It was this action plus his policy as raja, promoter of Labuan and consul to Brunei which brought him into conflict with powerful interests in Britain. He had made enemies of men who had hoped to exploit his rule in Sarawak for the colonial and commercial wealth supposedly to be won there. When their hopes were frustrated by Brooke's concern for the protection of the natives against fortune seekers, they tried to destroy the raja. Henry Wise, Brooke's former London agent, was one of these men. He convinced leading radicals, including Joseph Hume, MP for Birmingham, and Richard Cobden, that Brooke slaughtered innocent natives on the excuse that they were pirates because they interfered with his own aggrandizing plans. The Aborigines Protection Society and the Peace Society joined with Brooke's enemies in calling for a public inquiry. A parliamentary commission of inquiry sat in Singapore in 1853.⁵

Following the inquiry Brooke resigned as governor and consul. Naval officers were no longer enthusiastic about participating in activities in Borneo. The Admiralty in 1855 issued instructions to its officers to adhere strictly to an order of 1844 which prohibited attacks upon pirate vessels unless it could be shown that they had first attacked a British vessel. Another standing order to naval as well as civil officials was designed to prevent interference in the political affairs of states in the Indian archipelago.

In 1857 Chinese goldminers in upper Sarawak attacked and burned Brooke's city of Kuching. Several Europeans were killed and public and private property was plundered. The attack was reportedly inspired

by exaggerated reports of the British withdrawal from before Canton in January 1857. This was considered a Chinese victory by many overseas Chinese in the Far East and it caused great excitement among their communities.⁶ The Chinese were under the influence of a secret society in Sarawak which was reportedly associated with the "Heaven and Earth Society" of Singapore. The Chinese were also aware of Brooke's loss of British support.⁷

British policy toward Sarawak

Britain's attitude toward Sarawak and toward Brooke as ruler must be viewed apart from his treatment as a British colonial and diplomatic official, although the distinction was not always precisely applied.

Soon after becoming raja James Brooke applied to Britain for protection.⁸ He asked for British support in developing Sarawak by the assistance of a few Englishmen working with the native chiefs. He asked for a steamboat of 100 tons, manned and armed, to keep open the communications between China and Singapore, and to survey the coast of Borneo. There was no favorable response at this time from the government. For two decades no firm support was forthcoming from Britain. As we have seen the navy co-operated with him in suppressing piracy. In several instances in so doing it acted to promote British influence and Brooke's rule in Sarawak. But naval support was more the result of *ad hoc* decisions of friendly naval officers rather than any clearly defined policy emanated from London.

From time to time ministers spoke favorably of Raja Brooke's work. Foreign Secretary Aberdeen in 1845 defended Brooke when Holland protested that the settlement of Sarawak infringed the 1824 treaty.⁹ In 1846 Palmerston commended the raja for his "civilizing work" and offered naval support for pirate warfare. Palmerston recommended a flag for Sarawak. But the foreign office held to the view that—

... it is not the policy of Her Majesty's Government that British subjects should possess territory on the mainland of Borneo.¹⁰

Four years later Britain saw no reason why Brooke should not make a treaty with the United States even though the foreign office was not clear as to his status at Sarawak or whether his relationship to the sultan of Brunei enabled him to negotiate with a foreign power.¹¹

As the attack of the radicals on Brooke grew more persistent during the early 1850's the government withdrew its official policy of non-support. In 1853 when the raja took issue with a foreign office statement which held that Brooke was not an independent ruler, Lord Clarendon noted:¹²

It seems to me that the various documents tend to prove how cautiously the government abstained from recognizing his independence although in various ways the anomalous character of his position has been admitted.

Cecil St. John suggested that Britain recognize the independence of Sarawak and accord it the consent to Brooke. The raja had previously indicated that the consul must receive his recognition from him in order to act in Sarawak territory.¹³

Clarendon's letter to St. John on this occasion is worth quoting at length for it does not stop non-recognition. Clarendon noted that the government would not pronounce an opinion as to the precise relationship between Brooke and the Sultan, nor would it formally recognize Brooke as an independent sovereign. The letter continues:¹⁴

Her Majesty's Government entirely agree with you in thinking that British interests in Borneo are so closely interwoven with the prosperity of Sarawak that whatever injuriously affects the latter must also be injurious to the former. . . . therefore Her Majesty's Government hardly believe that Sir James Brooke will place himself in direct

arrangements to Her Majesty's Government by refusing to allow you to act within the territory which is subject to his rule, and thereby compel Her Majesty's Government to make known to the natives that no British subject can exercise sovereign authority without the permission of his sovereign, which permission has not been obtained by him, and that consequently he is acting against the law of England, whereas if he avoids insisting upon a recognition of his independent sovereignty which is inconsistent with his position as a British subject, his supreme authority at Sarawak upon whatever basis it may rest, whether upon the grant of the Sultan or the choice of the people, will remain undisturbed and unquestioned.

This posed the question that for the next thirty years confused government officials in their policy toward Sarawak, 'What exactly was the status of Sarawak? Under Clarendon the foreign office recognized the involvement of British interests in Sarawak. But it refused to take any responsibility for their protection or exploitation.

It is interesting to note that Palmerston, the prime minister, disagreed with Clarendon on the question of Brooke's independence. He wrote:¹²

The question seems to be rather between the Sultan of Borneo and the ruler of Sarawak than between the latter and the sovereign of England. But as far as we are concerned there does not seem to be any strong reason why we should not deal with Sarawak as an independent state, and if it is so we might ask for an acquiescence from the power that be.

But Sir John had received his instructions from the foreign office. In the meantime he reported that the United States and France were about to negotiate with Brooke as independent sovereigns of Sarawak.¹³

Brooke's proposals and Lord Derby's policy

The Chinese incursion and its aftermath marked the beginning of more hopeful moves on the part of Britain toward Sarawak. The public and some officials were shocked by the sudden attack of the Chinese goldminers. The raja's friends in England made known their disgust with the government's neglect of the northwest coast of Borneo.¹⁴ The government received numerous memorials from groups in support of Brooke, demanding that Britain extend protection to Sarawak or take it as a colony. The London Times and provincial newspapers published letters and articles to the same effect.¹⁵

Britain's change of attitude toward Sarawak can be traced from Brooke's approach to the Palmerston government in 1858. Brooke told the foreign office that he hoped Britain would take note of the strategic position of Borneo between India and China. He spoke also of the advantages of coal supplies available at Sarawak, and of the possible encroachment of the Dutch. The foreign office was interested.¹⁶ Brooke offered to cede Sarawak to Britain. Britain must guarantee that the religion, laws and customs of the people be respected. He asked for some compensation in lieu of the private fortune which he had expended on the country and in place of the loss of future revenue. When the raja was advised that a colony was almost surely out of the question and that a less formal connection would have more chance of acceptance, he proposed a protectorate.¹⁷

Unfortunately for Brooke, Palmerston's government was shortly replaced by Lord Derby's second ministry, with Lord Malinsbury at the foreign office and Edward Bulwer Lytton at the colonial office. A deputation representing industrial and commercial interests of Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow, and members of parliament met Lord Derby in 1859 and urged him to grant a protectorate over Sarawak, to keep it from

falling to another power. Derby replied that as long as Britain maintained naval superiority in the China Sea she could command the trade and commerce of 'those districts' and there was nothing to fear from an adversary in time of war.¹⁸

Notwithstanding this lack of encouragement, the question remained alive and was the subject of further study by the government. Following Derby's meeting with the deputation the admiralty received a report on Sarawak which had been requested by the prime minister.¹⁹ So favorable was the report that a further investigation was ordered. The admiralty hydrographer was asked to ascertain the feasibility of sending and naval facilities at Sarawak.

However a more pressing reason for continued consideration of Brooke's proposals was the attitude of Holland. Although the prime minister headed aside the idea that the Dutch might ultimately claim Sarawak, despatched from the British minister in the Hague indicated that Holland was interested in Sarawak.²⁰ Holland watched the progress of Brooke's proposals. The colonial minister stated in the state-general that he felt Britain would not seriously consider taking Sarawak, for it would give rise to a collision between the two governments.²¹ The Dutch had recently been busy making land grants and erecting forts and stations in areas close to Sarawak.

The foreign office, armed with the Hague despatches and the admiralty report drew up a long memorandum.²² It favoured the cession of Sarawak to Britain. Sarawak, it said, should replace Labuan as a British dependency because of its commercial and naval advantages. Lord Malinsbury recommended the memorandum to the prime minister and the colonial office with a note stating that the conduct of Holland had induced him to look further into the question.²³ Meanwhile early in 1859 the hydrographer, with the help of old eastern hands such as Admirals Mundy, Keppel and Cochrane, all friends of the raja, produced a glowing report on Sarawak and recommended a 'modern' protectorate.

(to be continued)

Dr. Wright, an American, recently spent sometime working in the State Archives at the Sarawak Museum. The above is a shortened version of a paper he gave for the International Conference on Asian History at Hong Kong, September 1964, printed here for the first time by kind permission of Professor Bruce Harrison, the author, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Sir Lindsay Ridd. Dr. Wright is now completing a book on this theme. This book will contain full references and new material on Sarawak's history in Brooke times, set in a wide historical perspective.

NOTES TO DR. WRIGHT'S PAPER

[These numbers shown in the notes are not to be found in the main text above, owing to reductions due to treatment of space.]

1. The most recent work has been done by the writer of this paper in an unpublished Ph. D. thesis in the University of London, 1963, entitled 'British Policy in the South China Sea Area with Special Reference to Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo, 1850 to 1860'. The following have been consulted upon the subject: Graham Firth, *Singapore Country Review* (1935); Stephen Robinson, *The White Malacca* (1960); and R.G. Thompson, *Under Chartered Company Rule* (1955).
2. See H. Low, 'Scientific Stock of the Straits' in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Malay Branch* (1848), June 1848; and H. B. Hughes-Hallett, 'Sketch of the History of Borneo' in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Malay Branch* (1848-1849), August 1848. Low's information is taken from the family records of the Borneo rajas (see Low to Derby, 4 July 1857 in Foreign Office series G, v. 41 PG 13/140).
3. Lord Stanley of Alderley (ed.), *The First Foreign Round the World by Magellan*, The Hakluyt Society, 1934, pp. 128-129.
4. Armand Carreia (ed.), *The Java Oriental of Pong Pong*, The Hakluyt Society, 1944. This account was written in Malacca and India between 1812 and 1815.

5. W. H. Moorhead (ed.), *Press Clippings: The Passage to the East Indies in the United States in 1893*, The Historical Society, 1954, p. 79.
6. Lemmon Mills, *British Malaya 1824-1867*, 1953, pp. 171-2, 186.
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*, p. 186.
9. Spencer B. St. John, *Life of Sir James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak* (1876), pp. 454, 567.
10. *Ibid.*, op. cit., pp. 149-50. The report of the inquiry is in *Parliamentary Papers (P.P.) 1874-75, v. 383.5*, Brooke's questions in letters in *Annual Motion Journal* 33, 1863, 33.
11. P.P. 1874, LV+11, 33-34; FO to Admiralty (Adm), 28 Nov. 1873, and FO to St. John, 6 Sept. and 10 Nov. 1873, FO 12/22.
12. St. John to Chamberlain, 11 May 1877, FO 12/24.
13. St. John to Chamberlain, 20 April 1877, FO 12/24; and St. John, 2 Apr. . . . pp. 293-5.
14. R. Baden-Powell and C. A. Henshield, *A History of Sarawak Under the Tree-Rubber Rajahs* (1929), pp. 159-61, 165; G. Smith, *The State of Sarawak* (1876), p. 113-4; and *Great Britain and the Malay States and the British Empire* (1885), p. 111.
15. James Brooke, *A Letter from Sarawak* (unpublished), copy in FO 12/1.
16. *Despatch to Aberdeen*, 2 Dec. 1843, and *Aberdeen to Despatch*, 10 Dec. 1843, Colonial Office series 149, v. 1 PCD 144/11, CDO 144/11.
17. FO to Brooke, 1 Nov. 1844, and FO to Adm, 14 July 1845, FO 12/4.
18. *Despatch to Brooke*, 24 Oct. 1858, FO 12/8.
19. Brooke to FO, 27 Sept. 1853, and Chamberlain returns despatch, FO 12/11.
20. Brooke to St. John, 25 Oct. 1855, and St. John to Chamberlain, 3 Nov. 1855, FO 12/12.
21. Chamberlain to St. John, 9 April 1856, FO 12/13.
22. *Parliamentary motion*, 6 Aug. 1858, FO 11/23.
23. St. John to Chamberlain, 11 May 1858, FO 12/23.
24. C.B. Owen, *Nineteenth Century Malaya* (1947), pp. 52-3; and J. Kennedy, *A History of Malaya A.D. 1498-1946* (1952), pp. 155-6.
25. Among the ruler's many influential supporters in England were John Aldrich Smith, M.P. for Chichester, Bishop Wilberforce of Oxford and the wealthy philanthropist Angela (later Margaret) Burdett-Coutts. See also the *London Times*, 1 Dec. 1858.
26. e.g., petition of the companies of the City of London, *Times*, 12 Aug. 1858; petition of Manchester residents signed from the *Manchester Guardian*, *Times*, 10 April, 1858.
27. FO memo, 14 Jan. 1858, FO 12/21.
28. Smith, op. cit., p. 206.
29. *London Times*, 1 Dec. 1858.
30. *Cable Censored* (H.M.S. Censored) to Adm., 18 Oct. 1858, FO 12/11. This report reached London in December.
31. Ward to Malacca, 14 Dec. 1858, FO 11/166.
32. Ward to Malacca, 29 Nov. 1858, FO 11/35.
33. FO memo, 3 Jan. 1859, FO 11/35.
34. Malacca memo, 7 Jan. 1859, FO 12/18, David Dooly in the House of Commons said some "true facts" had been brought before the government, *See Times*, 11 March 1859, p.4.

Rex Warner's Writing

By
TIM HARRISON

For Kafka I have much time, but little mood. For Warner, much mood, but little time. The one I read before the war, the other only intensely since. For it seems to me that Warner,—unlike almost every other English writer who was not in the Far East, and not writing straight documentary—has gained a great deal since the war; I thought little of *The Wild Geese Chase*, or of *The Prefecture*, but *The Aerodrome*, written just before the war and published during it, and *Why War I Killed?* deeply impress. There is no need to be pretentious about this, and I won't even claim to get my views into this form.

For what it is worth, however, I would say this. Rex Warner is in the straight line of succession which zigzags through Ronald Firbank and Anthony Powell up into Auden, Isherwood, and the younger Spender. The decay, the tragedy, the hopelessness, the unsatisfiable pull of instant, threatening death, is the major postmodernism. This is legitimate enough. To-day, in a way, it is more legitimate than ever. When we strip away the class controls and code disciplines with which we combat this further crisis in civilization, we are left with nothing new, with the same thing that sent Isherwood Yogi to Hollywood. Where Warner distinguishes himself in his writing is in the way he has gone beyond this hopelessness, which with most of the others has bracketed off into a cumulative sterility. I do not know Warner personally as I do (or did) Spender, Kesteven, Anthony Powell, and did MacNeice and Dylan Thomas. So I cannot be shrewd about the inner motives for this. But clearly he has not retreated from the whole crisis of modern existence. Nor has he pretended to be in it, or if it, in some of our best writers have tried to do, while still feeling miserable and dejected, unhappy and back in 1834. Warner's strength of experience and wealth of vision have carried him on to the top of a magnificent ivory tower, without leading him to burrow in deep at its base when he feels the world's coming. And when he gets up to the top of the tower he does not rely on an old-style telescope. He once rather, to shoot back through the fog and blood-moon.

So *The Aerodrome* and *Why War I Killed?* are, in one way among the most satisfactory pieces of creative writing in this country which came out of the war years. Not always technically so brilliant as Arthur Kesteven, Arthur Cadden-Maswell, Henry Green or Elizabeth Bowen, yet he has an advantage over these and many others in the intensity and thoughtfulness of what he does. Though superficially his writing is complicated, in fact he uses the medium to say just what he wants, with no more complication than a good film script or a Stephen Foster radio lyricist. Some mistake his writings for highbrow, whereas it is straight. He is one of the first to break away from trivial forms without confusing himself in doing it. To be more precise, he did confuse himself in his first books, now he has got the thing taped.

There is with this question of "mood." Somewhere Warner has got, in *Why War I Killed?* the exact mood of war and battle and death—more often than, say, Robert Herricks, in his brief but sometimes over-written Commando novel, and much since. The effect comes largely because Mr. Warner does get down to the fundamentals of human anxiety and hope, which apply anywhere. A good many philosophers and a few journalists have done this lately; very few novelists. Warner, unlike, say, Stephen Spender, is able not only to see the humanity and hopelessness behind despair and bewilderment (Spender sees it all right), but to write it down without being self-conscious and piggish. Thus, although on a paper and pencil analysis Warner's books could be described as "depressing" and "bewitching," the total effect is one of clarity.

It would be a mistake to over-analyse. In a sense Warner is a "commentator," not a "poet," in fact, he is pioneer-commentator who describes the scene in four dimensions, where literally thousands of others are describing it in two—poets reaching back for depth and misjudging width, reporters and thinkers scouring the width and seeking peering under the surface into the cold middle of that big black which was 1945, and all that it may mean into 1965.

(This is part of an essay contributed to a new anthology on Warner and other modern writers, to be published in U.S.A. and edited by Dr. A. L. MacNeice.)

Health and Food, a Sarawak Perspective

By

CHEE CHUAN GUN

Progress in our modern world is very wonderful. Research leads to improvements in the standard of living and helps to find ways of overcoming the problems of overpopulation and the shortage of food. Modern scientific methods are often convenient and time saving and this is important; for time, when gone, has gone for ever.

But modern science is not all advantages. There are also disadvantages for science has frequently led to the over substitution of synthetic products, particularly foods and remedies, for natural foods and cures. This frequently leads to ill health causing life and beauty to fade quickly and miserably. More attention should be paid to the many good and natural foods and cures. The same ideas also apply to many of our domestic animals as is clearly shown by the following examples:

The modern scientific methods of rearing pigs may be easier and more convenient but the scientifically prepared foods that are fed to the animals do not give them about the same sweet taste as in the meat of animals fed on natural foods.

Similarly a race-horse depending too much on scientific food products will put on weight and become fat and will not become tough with strong muscles, veins and bones; and since it is lacking in these things it is liable to break its shodlocks and lose joints easily and will only be able to gallop at a slow pace. It should be fed with more green stuff such as leaves and greens. There are certain leaves which are supposed to give horses great strength. These are called gingers leaves and can be found locally. These points apply to the rearing of other domesticated animals.

With regard to ourselves an over-synthetic diet leads to unhealthy organs and general bad health, particularly of the skin. It is said that the composition of the skin is tender. The surface (which is visible) is the top layer which prevents poisonous substances from penetrating the body into the under layers (the true skin). All these layers of skin and the flesh beneath are joined by connecting substances and contain the sweat glands, hair roots and blood cells, etc. Waste products escape through these sweat glands in the form of perspiration. If the connecting substances contain excessive waste products they will be expelled to the outer skin layer and cause pimples and other skin complaints. So one can see the necessity of eating natural foods unstained by scientifically produced synthetic substitutes. Pimples can become rather acute and mar the beauty and charm of the skin. Some persons suffer terribly (for example, of acne) mainly due to puberty or to some unbalanced diet.

Science has produced many preparations to be used as aids for beautifying the features of a person and curing skin complaints. The aim of these scientific preparations is good for a smart make-up not only makes a person look bright, attractive, charming, sweet smiling and beautiful, but can be compared with an orchid bringing beauty to its surroundings and filling the eyes and mind with pleasant thoughts and relaxation. But these preparations, though good in aim, are of little use in practice. They are of only temporary value and in the long run only cause more ill health by further upsetting the natural balance and further adding to the number of synthetic products substituted for natural ones.

The only satisfactory way of regaining and maintaining one's good health is to indulge in natural and traditional foods and cures. As regards the good health of the skin this prompt experienced people to remember ancient times when Emperors used powdered pearls

to put on their faces. It is said that in this way they retained their youthful and charming looks, with faces clear and charming and free from blemishes. From knowledge which has been handed down we know that pearls are useful and precious and, besides, they can be mixed with benzoin (locally called "Montary Stone") and powdered and powdered into a fine powder as a cure for pimples. The mixture can be used at any time for facial make-up, and its frequent use is believed to cure pimples and make the skin smooth. There are many other natural precautions which can be taken against pimples and many natural cures for getting rid of them. It is essential to have clear, healthy organs and a normal temperature and the skin of the face should not be roughly rubbed or washed lest it become broken and injured. Hygienic food and a not too fatty diet are essential. Excessive of unbalanced foods will also cause the growth of pimples. A good cure for pimples is to drink the juice of *Azadirachta indica* (a sort of wild crooper) and bamboo shoots boiled in water.

The tomato (*Lycopersicon*) was formerly known as the *lunatic* and also affords a simple and convenient way of preventing pimples, eaten raw or as tomato juice. Tomato juice added to pure honey with a few drops of chicken wine is also very good for the health. It will give both males and females, young and old, a rosy skin. Plenty of fresh raw tomatoes mixed with honey and fresh eggs gives healthy lungs and a good voice. Tomato leaves may be rubbed on a sun burned face to give a feeling of fresh cooling due to the juice from the leaves evaporating. Oil, made from tomato seeds, can be used for the same purpose.

The Preparation of Chicken-wine

Fry coarse salt until very hot. Then put the chicken flesh into the pan and cover it with the fried hot salt for an hour—by then it is about half cooked. Then take the chicken out and clean off all the salt, after which it should be placed in the open air to catch the dew during the night, with a protection to prevent mosquitoes or other insects crawling over it, carrying poisonous substances on to it. The next morning soak the chicken and four table of red dates (good quality; and take out the seeds) in brandy or whisky. After seven days the wine can be used for drinking with tomato juice.

(Note: If a chicken is hung up until it is dry and is then covered with fried hot salt the flesh will not become salty and the salt will not be absorbed.)

Another Method: Raw chicken can also be soaked in brandy or whisky with four table of red dates, provided that half a tany of ginger (no need to slice or crush it) is added to take away the nasal smell of raw flesh.

People weak through under-nourishment, should take four table spoonfuls of chicken wine with or without tomato juice after breakfast, and six table spoonfuls at bedtime. Non-alcohol drinkers may drink chicken-wine mixed with cold water (after boiling) to soften the drink to suit one's taste. Chicken-wine is not generally meant for a sick person. It may not suit all types of weak health.

Everyone is aware of the world's present over-population resulting in a mass shortage of food and consequent malnutrition. But perhaps not everyone is aware that there are many wild growing greens, vegetables, tubs and animals that could well be incorporated into the human diet both in areas where there is insufficient food and as substitutes for unhealthy scientific products.

The following are some examples to be found in Sarawak: "Bayam Merah" (Malay); *Azadirachta indica*, L.

This is a herbal and shrub plant and a green leafy vegetable of a type said to contain vitamin A. It has medicinal properties against rheumatism, chills, impure air and gases. Its leaves can be eaten and cooked with eggs and pig's liver or without them and the taste is more or less like cucumber leaves. (It is easy to plant and spreads widely around the area where its seeds drop.) The seeds themselves have a high food value containing starch and fat.

"Rampai jaling" (Malay) Running wild grass, *Arru-rachia purpurata* L.

This is a wild growing shrub. It can be cooked with or without meat, or fried with fat and butter. Its taste is more or less like spinach. It is nourishing and does good to the body and can also be used to prevent vomiting blood due to overwork and internal heat. It can also be used as a preventive against TB in its early stages. When it is cooked with pig's liver it is also said to nourish the blood. It can be used both externally and internally for intestinal trouble—stomach ache.

"Kachang belimbing" (Malay); *Psophocarpus tetrapodolobus*.

This is a vegetable which if carefully tended can produce far more than a year. The pericarp and seeds at a young stage are used as a vegetable food and can be fried with or without meat. When the pericarp grows old and becomes hard, the seeds inside can be cooked with chicken (Malay) *Kampyris pulunga* to make cooking easy and soften them, then they can be filed and are just as good as other beans or peas and very nice to eat. They can also be filed for tea brewed of coffee. They can be planted in any soil, except in swampy places, which makes them very economical. They may contain vitamin B or A as other nuts, and legumes do? Medically they can be used for ponding to cure vertigo.

Man/fish

(Contrary to popular opinion mudfishes are equally as wholesome as food as many other fish. Furthermore they breed prolifically and are easy to keep. They feed mainly on rotten vegetable or leafy matter in swampy places. They are fatty and starchy and should be cooked with black or white beans. Like other fish they contain vitamins A and D. They are inferior in quality but rich in nourishing property.)

All the products mentioned above are easy to grow and are just as good as many more expensive foods. They would be particularly suitable as crops for farmers and others with a low income and only a little land. Many of them can be sold and at times fetch a good price on the market. Only by exploiting every possible source of food in this way can the world's food problems, and accompanied problems of malnutrition be overcome. It should be remembered that in past ages man survived and grew strong and prospered by living on just such wild naturally occurring products.

That is not to say that modern scientific methods can be of no help. Far from it. Science can be of great help in developing improved methods of farming and the modern way of life can help the spread of ideas to places where they are most needed. Particularly useful in Sarawak are the modern methods of producing a number of suitable crops and domestic animals together on only a small area of land in such a way that each type is beneficial to the other. For example:

The feeding and rearing of pigs, fowls and ducks

An available plan shows a method by which a number of pigs, fowls and ducks can be reared and fed in an area only fifty feet square. The area is divided up into ponds over which are built pigsties, an open area for fowls and ducks and, surrounding these areas, space for planting papaya and kachang

belimbing for feeding to the livestock and for cash-crops to meet daily requirements and maintenance, etc. It has been calculated that 400 papaya trees and 400 vines of kachang belimbing are sufficient to produce food for 20 pigs, 40 fowls and 40 ducks. The diet could be supplemented with fish from the fishpond or with coconuts and still produce a good profit after sale of the stock. A conservative estimate of the profit from such a set up is \$150 per month and this calculation is based on the highest likely prices for the purchase of materials and stock, and the lowest likely prices for the sale of stock. The success of such a scheme is due to the fact that there is little waste, the scheme being balanced. Even the manure from the pigs and fowls has its use as fertilizer and for feeding the fish in the fishponds and as the area is so compact with little wastage of space less labour is needed. And all the products are additionally suitable for home consumption.

Domestic Animals' food ingredients

Certain ingredients, in addition to basic food stuffs are good for the body growth of domestic animals. They help produce bigger and healthier animals and cause them to lay more nourishing eggs. Half a tea spoonful of these substances should be given in the morning and evening, for a period of 20 days once every three months. The following are the substances:

Chrysophylla
Chalcium
Sarcosine
Seed of *Mysticis fragrans*
Skin of dry orange
Ascorum

They are supposed to be crushed into powder for use.

*I must thank Dr. Peter Ashton, Forest Stationer, Kuching, for identifications here and elsewhere.

Pittacus: the Art of the Talking Bird

by

MICHAEL FOSBRO

Very many different species of birds imitate the songs or calls of other birds or even other naturally occurring noises, but only comparatively few have the ability to imitate human speech. The closely related starlings and magpies, crows and parrots are notable in this respect. This is a faculty known as *Pittacism* (the Latin for parrot is *pittacus*) and is one which is only known to occur in captive birds; no truly wild bird has ever been known to imitate the human voice.

Pittacism is a faculty that has been recognised for centuries. From time immemorial primitive South American peoples have domesticated parrots and taught them to "talk" and they were probably the first ever to do so. Humboldt, in South America at the very beginning of the nineteenth century even heard a parrot speak a dead language, all the people of the tribe in which it was brought up having been exterminated. The records go back much further than that. Pliney refers to talking parrots in his Natural History written in the first century, though his account of the ability of Magpies (members of the crow family) is somewhat exaggerated—

"These birds (Magpies) get fond of uttering particular words, and not only learn them but love them, and severely punish them with careful reflection, not concealing their engagement. . . . It is an established fact that if the difficulty of a word hinders them this causes their death."

In the Old World it is probable that the custom of teaching birds to talk was started by the Chinese

centuries ago, probably by the rich and privileged classes with the time on their hands to devote to the patient teaching that is necessary. Certainly cage-birds, particularly parrots and other talking birds, are numerous amongst the Chinese populace here in Kuching, as is abundantly clear from a walk around the bazars and streets. These are parrots of a dozen or so species ranging from Borneo's own Long-tailed Parakeet, Malaya Lorikeet and Little Malley Parrot to Grey Parrots from Africa, Crested Cockatoos from Australasia and other species from South America. Particularly numerous are Talking Mynahs—a common jungle bird in Sarawak—which are easily the most accomplished talkers, surpassing even the parrots.

Here in Kuching talking birds are regarded as a sign of good luck and business by shopkeepers and other businessmen. They attract customers and are taught to call such phrases as "Good business! Good business!" and "Come in! Come in!" to passers by. But they are also popular in private houses where professional speakers are usually placed close to an entrance or staircase so that they can announce the arrival of visitors to their owner and greet the visitor with a cheery "Hello". In the past in China they were also valued for conversation by lonely and bored persons. Here in Kuching Talking Mynahs often have another use; their loud and cheerful whistling and calling making one in the morning is regarded as more reliable and aesthetically pleasing than the faithful and less persistent western alarm clock. Great care and trouble is lavished over these birds and Mr. Che Chin Gue tells me that it is the custom to wash the tongues of parrots every day to smooth and soften them and thereby facilitate speech. Care is also taken to shield them from the close sight of blood or corpses for this will cause them to sicken and die. Parrots rear their young in holes in trees and Mr. Che tells that only parrots from a hole in live wood will thrive in captivity and learn to talk; those from a hole in dead wood sicken and soon die without ever speaking a word.

Of the many parrots here in Kuching undoubtedly one of the most talented is a Green Parrot called Bill belonging to Tom Harrison. Bill's rich vocabulary is called from English, Malay, Kabit and —? His mastery of Old English four-letter words is amazing. Indeed Bill acquired wider fame by appearing in the German (though not the English) edition of *Danish Jergen Ritsch's* notorious book *What the World's And* where he is described as one of "several talking parrots whose repertoires of coarse words and oaths were doubtless learnt from their master, to whom, in this respect, these loquacious birds were not in any way inferior". In fact, Bill recently produced evidence that he, or rather she, is female by laying an egg, the necessary stimulation being in the form of a male Red-breasted Parakeet in the same cage. Bill's mate died recently and it is interesting that for a while Bill refused to say anything at all. He is now back in full form, however.

Another notorious bird is a Talking Mynah in England whose owner, a short time ago, was fined £2 because it was alleged the bird was a public nuisance, persistently singing "All the nice girls love a sailor" and waving soft whistles. As an illustration of the memory capacity of birds it may be mentioned that an Amazon Parrot has been known to acquire a vocabulary of nearly a hundred words, and probably some Badgerkeepers acquire a much larger repertoire. A parrot owned by a cardinal is reputed to have been able to recite the *Apostles' Creed* correctly.

It is a rather remarkable fact that birds are the only vertebrates that have the ability to imitate human speech. Even the primates, among which the chimpanzee has particularly complex and efficient vocal organs and which can produce a rich variety of sounds, cannot be taught to imitate human speech. Why birds

alone should have the anatomical and physiological equipment to do so is not clear in the present state of knowledge. But, accepting the fact that they do have this faculty, it is possible to theorise as to why they should talk in captivity. The reason is said to be that in captivity away from their own kind, birds develop a special social attachment to their human keepers. They soon learn that their vocalisations tend to attract and increase the amount of attention they receive from their owners. As a result vocalisation and, particularly, good vocal imitation is quickly reinforced by social contact. This idea offers an explanation for the well known fact that a talking bird talks more when its owner has just left the room or is away than when he is present. It is suggested that the parrot talks in an attempt to attract the owner's attention, bring him back, and make him stay. This theory of the psychology of talking birds is very similar to one often put forward to explain the first steps in a human baby learning to talk. Mothers often coo and talk babytalk to their babies when attending to them so that the mother's voice becomes associated with comfort. It is therefore reasonable to expect that a baby, alone and unhappy, will be comforted by its own voice and encouraged to make a noise whenever it is discomforted. The baby is rewarded by its own babbling and eventually learns that if it succeeds in making the kind of sounds its mother makes, it will get attention, affection and comfort in return. So the stage is set for the learning of the human language.

It is also known that learning in birds can be facilitated by emotional stress. General Lorenz in his delightful book *King Solomon's Ring* tells the story of a free-living name Hooded Crow which returned with a broken leg after several weeks of absence. In the account of an Austrian street urbane the bird said the equivalent of "Gut im in (Museum trap)", an expression it can only have heard at the moment it was caught and in a distressed condition. One of Lorenz' parrots was once frightened by a chimney-sweep and months later shrieked "The chimney-sweep is coming" when he reappeared—an expression it can only have heard on the occasion that it was originally frightened.

Some birds not only learn sounds but undoubtedly sometimes establish associations between the words and some relevant happening. Many parrots, for example, will only say "good morning" and "good evening" at appropriate times of the day and there was a Grey Parrot that said "Na, and Wiedersehen" whenever a visitor stood up to depart; it was never fooled by visitors standing up for other reasons. Another parrot learnt to say "Adieu" when a guest was departing and later acquired the trick of using this expression whenever someone it disliked was present. It is all the more amazing therefore that no one has ever been able to train a parrot, or any other bird, to say "food" when hungry or "water" when thirsty, an association which would be of great benefit to the bird.

This brings up the question of what use this ability to imitate is to the bird in the wild—a vexed question which remains unanswered. Dr. W. H. Thorpe has commented that the ability is a surprising mystery "for parrots in the wild seem to make little or no use of their vocal powers beyond uttering the stereotyped cries and calls which help to co-ordinate the flock behaviour, yet surely we must assume that a considerable part of the brain substance must in some way be earmarked for voice control and so not available for other purposes". There is little neurological basis for the latter assumption, and the problem remains unsolved.

O and E

Is it something about me or something about K.L.? I used to go (when I had nowhere better to go) and stay in the mighty Hotel M, when on duty there. Two things got me down stay a bit—apart, that is, from the price:

1. There was never enough hot water at normal bath hours.
2. Almost every time one went up and less often when one went down—an important detail, this—the lift boy would ask:

"Are you leaving tomorrow, Sir?"

No, I seemed stupid—for the price. No 2 perhaps had to do with the likely lad's correct appreciation viz. that a chap looking like that probably couldn't afford this hotel anyway and should be watched! In the end, I got to the stage that I was walking up nine flights to avoid crisis 2. Unusually, huh? No, switched to the equally mighty, but slightly less-U, Hotel F. For nearly two-years of happy visits, always hot water, never that curious question in the lift.

Then, last week, not only no hot but the boy popped the old Mercury, No. 3. Horrified, I raced downstairs, seven flights, on foot and came up in the other lift. He asked it, too!

So now what does K, a man who likes a hot bath and a bonny lift (up) for that many dollars a bed-night, do? A price of \$10.00 (ten dollars) is offered for the best answer—printable here, I mean.

Re-reading Anthony Burgess' maliciously funny "The Devil of a State"—the unusual rich state of Brunei—we recall when he was an unknown schoolmaster in Brunei. His latest book, "Language made Plain", has clearly derived ideas (good ideas) from his knowledge of Malay in Brunei and the old Federation (of which he wrote "Time for a Tiger").

Ah, with what friendly cry can we look sideways at semi-Malayian Brunei, today, despite its tricky politics and tortured past. The new Brunei Annual Report, received 10 October, is a cheerful two years out of date: "1961-2". The population is still well under 100,000, and increased by only 3,352 in 1962 (a relative decrease of 330 on 1961).

In addition, over 30,000 people entered and 40,000 people left the state during that year—including over 1,000 "British non-indigenous", which apparently equals "expatriates", as there are also categories for "British expatriates", "British Dyaks" and "British Malays", as well as "Chinese British" (over half the total movement) and "Chinese Aliens", plus 50 odd Swis, 130 very odd Indonesians, nearly 200 Japanese and over 300 Americans. Quite a gaggle!

Public finance went staggering on up, of course. Revenue was again far above the hundred million dollar mark, nearly four times the total Brunei expenditure. Page 28 of this early printed by Brunei Press, Kuala Belait report tells us that the State "Long Term Investments" were:

	Sterling
1961	£759,727.400
1962	£884,583,519

Brunei is now a world power (financially). No wonder p.28 carries a message almost wholly catering for the British (non-indigenous):

"No personal income tax is levied in Brunei".

The Municipal Swimming Pools of Sibu and Kuching are a delight. What I like best is the way in which all sorts of people mix up together without—in many evenings of idle observation—any trace of an incident, rudeness or even staring. The other day we watched a learned arm of the legal hierarchy jump into a

Malay girl buying up the deep end, while a rich young Chinese boy crashed the top of them as they disintegrated. Nothing could have been more amiable and—and this is the point—unaffected, natural, polite.

Two things strike me after several months in and out of this clear, beautifully kept, admirably run water.

First, that a lot of young people there are, especially I think young Chinese (perhaps because of their long, thin, frames and muscular shoulders, who can swim well but not well enough (because untalented). That is, these youngsters could become really good swimmers, many of them. The facilities for helping them to go good are clearly inadequate. Despite the good efforts of Jeremy Hughes and the British Council, and the interest taken by the Council, Rep. Maddison and others, an effective, Sarawak-wide swimming association has not yet got off the water. It is high time it did.

Second, what does go off the water is water polo balls. This seems to be that one little bit where swimmers have got modern and "with it". As a result, a number of youngsters who can play third-rate water polo (at least they can), before the deep end of the bath on far too many occasions. Half a dozen of them fan out and throw the ball to and fro, monopolising all the best swimming water in the pool. An any fool can join in, and as the heat of them are only second class, no swimmer is safe from a thump in the head while swimming peacefully along his own little trade route.

I have got to see a number of Supreme Council bit in the eye by these deep water lads—with whom I have the a sometimes university player) some sympathy. If that happens, or the Mayor got a dunk on his knee, the nuisance might stop. There should be special water polo seasons. As it is, I know that some people, especially female (and particularly female), will not go again to the Kuching pool because of this quite unattractive and well-meaning little nuisance of the flying ball.

"Hiyah, Mr. Borneo chimpanzee!" as the wise Towday said for the first day he bought one from the declining circus at Sibu. The smart Indian circus logist sold him a pay though—storing that:

- (1) the Chimps could interbreed with Orang Utangs (smiles);
- (2) Could be trained in the job of sawmill mander, for the price of snakes only!

First we know of it in Kuching, the poor towday writes in asking for a mate for his chimp, soon after, an ex-voto for unwanted wild chimp is claimed (the "ultimate expatriate", native of Congo?).

A separate Grand Prix, goes to our good friend K.P. Wong. He has no shot, since the prize-winning pig, was taken in the garden at Sapa (Singapore, Pig Lane, of two Orangutans now in the Bako National Park).

Presenting these gay apes, beautifully as a nicely coloured postcard, K.P.W. captions them in a way that might start a race riot among Borneans ("who said my father was Danoa?"). This lovely photo of two pure Sarawakian apes gets a Tifonbo-Lamambo-Congolito caption:

TWO CHIMPANZEES Sarawak

A familiar sight to those who go into the interior of the Jangles of Sarawak.

For goodness sake, don't go too far into the jungle, man, the Mitaga-Mitaga-poor-Mad behind Lubok Arun? Or it could be an Indonesian?

Talking of pigs, at a lower level there's some confusion about RATS. We have to be careful not to avoid the ridicule of Indonesian economy. Those who had the misfortune to mature in Western Europe in the thirties will remember—with mingling—how the technique now being applied in South-east Asia to Borneo was in Britain, France and America applied to Hitler from 1933 on. Everything he did was in the end made to look absurd. The word enemy was taken up and turned into a slang of abuse—fan, drink, enemy, coffee. Even the tanks were *enemies*—they weren't made of steel at all, only of solidified cardboard!

Europe paid for this self-deception of wildish thinking dearly. The men trained for a decade on enemy food and drink got into their enemy's service and almost overran civilisation. Hitler was beaten in the end, at the cost of a world debacle and countless wasted lives, years, resources. Civilisation was "saved" largely by the accident of the Battle of Dover (nevermore than Brunel Bay), the obstinacy of the British (cheaper even than the Land Dupak?), the organisation of the Americans.

Agreeing Borneo, then, it would be a serious error simply to ridicule the emphasis being put now on eating corn as well as rice, rats as well as deer. Rat has long been a standard Kadazan dish in Sabah, and is excellent source of protein. There are over 20 sorts of rat in Indonesian Borneo, of which only one lives with dirt and sewage. Several are mountain, juicy, fruit and nut eaters of the jungle; every bit as edible as squirrels and monkeys, which many a Dupak daily takes.

The British not only made fun of the Germans for pulling in their belts and sacrificing much in their glacial preparation for war. The British also deceived themselves into grossly underestimating the German power and determination as a result. They argued that people without tolerant mayhem and China tea must be suffering so much that they wouldn't have the guts to fight or the strength to conquer. This rubbish was based on a high standard of materialism (ring and a glorious pinnacle of complacency. It would never do if we in Malaysia lulled ourselves into assuming that because we import lots of bulldozers and battery chickens, our own morale will at all times AUTOMATICALLY be superior to those who manage on old kops, their pigs, and *eye mate*.

We are glad to hear from long-time editor Robert Nicholl (see *Clarke* editorial tribute for May, and Norman Lawrence's delightful *Turf Club* note in the October issue). He writes from Venice in late October and draws our attention to an important early map source for Borneo. R. N. writes:

"In the Museo Correr, Venice, there is an early seventeenth century globe which contains a lot of information about the East Indies. The map of Borneo shows between Tanjung Datu and Brunei six rivers, all of which are named. The writing, however, is so minute that I cannot read it with the naked eye. It might be worth getting an enlarged photograph of this section of the globe."

Mr. Nicholl's many Malaysian friends will hope this is only the first of many notes from him in the near future. He is much missed here in Sarawak—not least by the postal!

T.H.

A Sarawak Malaysian Diary

OCTOBER

On Thursday

Sarawak's Legislative Council gives its full and unqualified support to an amended Opposition motion expressing appreciation to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Malaysia Day message touching particularly on the Comprehensive School System. The motion, moved by Mr. Stephen K. T. Yong (SUPP), seconded by Mr. Leong He Yuen (Machinda) and later amended by the Chief Minister, reads as follows: "That this House records its appreciation to His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Malaysia Day message announcing the introduction of the Comprehensive School System which will provide education for all children for nine years throughout Malaysia as from 1965 and urges the Federal Government to implement the same in accordance with the terms embodied in the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the formation of Malaysia."

The Minister for Local Government says Government is not contemplating any change in the present policy of local government which while directed towards promoting local government does not include granting of greater autonomy to the wealthier councils.

A Security Forces spokesman states in Kuching that the Terohs area of the First Division was monitored yesterday evening by Indonesian border terrorists.

The Council Negri is told by the Chief Minister that consideration has already been given to the appointment of a Land Dupak Temenggong; a solution may be effected by the beginning of next year.

A party of 42 recruits for the 1st Battalion, the Malaysian Rangers, arrive in Kuching by M.S. Spring. These men are recruited by Major B. Thomson from longhouses upriver from Kapit in the Third Division.

On Friday

The Chief Minister is asked in Council Negri by Mr. Chong Kain Kong (SUPP) to obtain information from the Federal Government with regards to more scholarships than now, to be available for Sarawak Students for university courses or for higher studies overseas.

Indonesian terrorist activities near the Sarawak frontier with Indonesian Borneo have flared up again. In the last 24 hours, Indonesian invaders made three incursions into Sarawak Territory and clashed with Malaysian Security Forces, in which the enemy suffered three fatal casualties and one wounded. Security Forces, on the other hand, had eight casualties — two seriously wounded and six slightly injured. The fighting took place in the First, Second and Fifth Divisions of Sarawak, after which the invaders retreated across the border.

The Minister for Communications and Works, Isiah Abdul Taib bin Mohamed says in Council Negri that the existing Batok Suspension Bridge, originally built to carry two twelve inch water-mains and pedestrian traffic only, does not justify the expense that would be involved to improve it to such condition as to carry motor vehicles.

The Federal Minister for Sarawak Affairs, Datu Temenggong Jajoh outlines in a broadcast given over Radio Malaysia, Sarawak, the question of vigilance corps and the ways in which the public could help government in the security of the State.

On Saturday

Kuching Hockey Team leaves for Sibu to compete in the Inter-Division Hockey Tournament among Kuching, Miri and Sibu.

All Saints win the Seven-a-side Rugby Competition when they beat Rongee Company by 15 points to all in the final played at the Song Kheng Hai Ground.

A cheque for M4,125 is presented from 8 Ordnance Maintenance Park by buying an Ambulance stretching equipment for the Kuching General Hospital to the Director of Medical Services, Dr. R. Dickie.

4th Sunday

The Governor, in a state-wide broadcast over Radio Malaysia Sarawak on the eve of his official Birthday makes a call to the people of Sarawak to maintain the State's proud tradition of living together in peace and harmony and to be firmly united and give absolute loyalty to the country in order to survive and progress in the face of Indonesian aggression.

Mr. Tan Kai Chuen, one of the founders of the Sarawak Amateur Athletic Association, re-elected president of SAAA for eleventh year during its Annual General Meeting.

St. Joseph's School is declared the Champion in both the Junior and Senior sections of the Annual Cross-country championship meeting.

Inter-Divisional Tennis Tournament: Kuching beat Sibu: 4-1.

Inter-Divisional Hockey Tournament: Kuching beat Miri: 5-0. Kuching drew Sibu: 0-0, Sibu beat Miri: 1-0. Kuching wins.

Stations of the scheduled 17 races are full off in the first day of the Sarawak Regatta, held in Kuching in celebration of the Birthday of the Governor, Data Abang Haji Opong.

5th Monday

Sarawak celebrates the official birthday of the Governor, Data Abang Haji Opong. He is 59.

Fifteen Chinese youths are arrested by police early this morning for distributing pro-Indonesian leaflets and posters around the town and rural areas. Among the youths arrested are six girls. Subversive materials are found in their possession.

Royal Air Force Scout Team wins the Anthony Brooks Cup when it beats All Saints 'A' in the final of the Kuching Scout Knock-out Competition by 1-2 at the Jubilee Ground.

Twenty-five Malaysian Security Forces troops fought a fifteen-hour battle with Indonesian border terrorists, numbering about 150 strong, in the Terbit Rungus area of Serian District of the First Division. The battle broke out early in the afternoon and continued all late into the night, heavy casualties inflicted on the terrorists. There were no casualties on our side, who defended the garrison so gallantly.

6th Tuesday

The Secretary-general of the Sarawak United People's Party, Mr. Stephen K. T. Yong says that if those who have been arrested and found guilty to have subversive literature in their possession they should be brought before the court.

A 21-year-old Chinese, Yeng Tung Ho, alleged to be an Indonesian residing at Sungai Rasi, Bekoh, Miri, Fourth Division, is found guilty by the Miri District Court on a charge of having unlawfully resided in Sarawak and is sentenced to four months jail.

The Sarawak Chinese Association has announced the expulsion of Messrs Andrew Lim Eng Hock, Wong Kai Wong, Kong Fui Fui and Wong Ah Suan. In a statement released by the SCA headquarters, the Association says the decision to take disciplinary action against them is made as a result of a resolution unanimously passed by the SCA Central Working Committee which met on Sunday, October 4.

Fifteen Chinese arrested yesterday are brought before District Court 'A' Magistrate, Mr. H. S. Dunsell and later released on bail.

7th Wednesday

Commenting on the Terbit Battle in which twenty-five Malaysian Security Forces gallantly and determinedly defended their garrison against a strong band of 150 heavily armed Indonesian border terrorists, Sarawak's Chief Minister described the emergency situation in the country as "very serious". "It is more serious than ever before. But I am confident that the Security Forces will be able to contain Indonesian acts of terrorism," he adds.

The five days' MIBIT has fair, the biggest ever to be held by the Kampong association ends with the attendance of the Chief Minister, the Federal Minister for Sarawak Affairs and other dignitaries and supporters.

Geological Survey, Borneo Region, Malaysia, Annual Report states that the value of minerals and constructional materials produced in Sarawak in 1963 was RM385,789 and in Sabah was RM448,100.

The four central committee members of the Sarawak Chinese Association Messrs Andrew Lim Eng Hock, Wong Kai Wong, Kong Fui Fui and Wong Ah Suan, commenting on the announcement made by the SCA Headquarters of their expulsion from the Association say that they fight for justice and they get expulsion.

Police recovered 11 rounds of 9mm ammunition from a lorry parked at Ban Block Wharf. Two male Chinese arrested.

8th Thursday

Senator William Tan, President of the Sarawak Society for the Blind, returns after a six-months world tour to seek international support for the Sarawak Society for the Blind.

Two brothers, Pui and Kwei bin Lucien of Kampong Awau-Awau in the Serian Sub-division, Fifth Division pleaded guilty in the Lawas District Court to a charge of having given false information to the National Registration Authority.

The Forest Body, called the Sarawak Association of Malay Youth Clubs (GABONGAN KELAB/ BELIA MELAYU SARAWAK) is formed. It represents 27 Malay (only) Youth Clubs.

The Brooke Dockyard's 1963 Annual Report shows a turnover of three-quarters of a million dollars during the last financial year ending December 31.

In a statement issued, the Labour Department draws attention to the fact that the Sarawak Government has raised the number of Public Holidays by 50 per cent. The holidays are: New Year's Day, Chinese New Year, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Hari Raya Pasa, Hari Raya Haji, Deepak Festival Day, His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday, the Prophet Muhammad's Birthday, Malaysia Day, H. E. the Governor's Birthday, Christmas Day.

9th Friday

His Excellency the Governor, Data Abang Haji Opong, has approved the award of Long Service Medal in respect of long and meritorious service to 21 persons.

10th Saturday

For the second time in ten months, civic minded donors of Mirish have given blood to the Sibu Blood Bank.

The 4th Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment who have been serving in Sarawak for more than six months, leave Sibu by air to Malaya on the completion of their tour of duty in Sarawak.

11th Sunday

A clash between Security Forces and Indonesian border terrorists occurred in the remote jungle area south-west of Kapit in the Second Division. The Security Forces patrol sighted a 20-man party of the

many and both sides simultaneously opened fire at a range of about 140 yards. No known casualties to either side.

The Second Inter-Secondary School Swimming Competition—sponsored by the Education Department—is held at the Kuching Municipal Council Swimming Pool. St. Thomas's School is the Champion School.

A 35-year-old Malayan, Suman Bin Rajang of Kampong Brant, Main, Third Division, is rescued by a Philippine-bound British ship after ten days adrift at sea.

12th Monday

The Best-Block, consisting of Edwin Gani (Lauder), Dudley Hameury and Ariff Akbar, is declared the Beatles Song Competition Winners held at the Lido cinema in conjunction with the screening of the Beatles film "A Hard Day's Night."

Fifty Sarawak political detainees from Bukit Sed Camp, across river — all Chinese and believed to be members of the Sarawak United Peoples' Party, are flown to the Batu Gajah Detention Camp in Malaya.

In the High Court, Mr. Justice Harley finds two accused, Nyang anak Dingen and Nyang anak Unggat, guilty of the offence of murder and convicts them accordingly of murder contra section 302-303 Penal Code. Nyang is sentenced to death while Unggat is sentenced to be detained at the pleasure of the Governor.

13th Thursday

Employees and employees of Mian Guan Distillery Factory hold an hour discussion in support of the request by about fifteen female workers for an increase of wages.

The Rulers and Governors of the various states in Malaysia have decided to contribute \$1,000 each to the National Defence Fund.

A Civics Assembly, organised by the State Information Service, is held at Kampong Sebeloh, Bau District, First Division.

Mr. Eken bin Abdullah is unanimously elected Chairman of the newly-registered Sarawak Medical Services Union.

14th Friday

His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong appoints Awang Daud bin Marican of Lawas, Fifth Division, to be a Senator.

A new Chinese daily newspaper, called the *Sar-Chiew* (State of Sarawak) Daily News has made its first appearance in Sibu.

Leaflets containing the most important facts about citizenship in Malaysia and the main rules as they affect the people of Sarawak, have now been printed and copies are now available from the Information Services and District Offices throughout the State.

15th Saturday

The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. James Wong urges the people to be united as one working body to build up the state.

The Chief Minister of Sarawak confirms that the 50 detainees recently airlifted from the Capital to the Batu Gajah Detention Camp in Malaya are hardcore COs.

Security Forces aircraft operating on Malaysian territory were fired on by Indonesian border terrorists from Indonesian soil on two separate occasions in the last 24 hours.

The 15 Chinese previously charged by the Police for distributing and being in possession of subversive leaflets and posters on October 8 in Kuching area, appear again in the Kuching Magistrate Court.

16th Sunday

Mr. Stephen K. T. Yong, (SUFP) speaking in the Dewan Rakyat on the Development Supplementary No. 2 Estimates touches on the extension of the Comprehensive School System to Sarawak next year.

The Management of Mian Guan Distillery has agreed to an increase of 25 cents in wages to its daily-paid workers following a meeting in which the request of fifteen daily-paid women workers for a 25 cents increase per day has been substantiated.

16th Monday

In a radio interview over Radio Malaysia, Dato Temenggong Jagan says, "If we are united nothing that Sukarno does can harm us — Unity must prevail."

The State Cabinet meets to discuss the launching of "National Solidarity Week" in Sarawak, in which members of the public will be encouraged to donate generously towards the National Defence Fund.

All members of the Dewan Negeri have decided to donate five hundred dollars each to the National Defence Fund.

16th Tuesday

The Chief Minister of Sarawak leaves for Jamaica to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference with an open mind and to convince friendly nations that Malaysia is not a neo-colonialist country.

The Chief Scout of the Commonwealth, Sir Charles Maclean is warmly welcomed by members of the Third Division Scout Movement from Cubs to Commissioners and lady members when he arrives at Sibu from Lutong.

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib starts his five-day tour of the coastal areas of the Third Division including Igan, Mukah and Dalat.

The Minister for Sarawak Affairs, Dato Temenggong Jagan presents a 15,000 cheque to Bawen anak Tawa, from Tenggus Sang, Bau District, First Division, as a simple ceremony at the Minister's office in Kuching. Bawen is the widow of Koro anak Amah, a Border Scout who was killed in action on February 29.

Mr. Ting Tung Ming, Political Secretary to the Chief Minister of Sarawak, leaves for United States of America on a study tour sponsored by the State Department of the U.S. Government.

17th Wednesday

The Malaysian Government Pathologist, Dr. T. Balasingham tells the Coroner, Mr. H. S. Daniels that Wong Yung Ing's death is caused by suicidal hanging. Wong Yung Ing was a political detainee.

Kuching Residents have a rare treat when they are given some insight into the Pathological work in particular connection with crime detection, by Dr. Balasingham, Pathologist at the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur.

The Painted Cave at Niah has 100 yards of wall with paintings of death ship. The cave floor is littered with ship-like coffins finely carved in hard iron-wood (Belian) and almost perfectly preserved in the high, cool, dry cave which showed no signs of being visited by men in modern times when re-discovered by Harless Harrison in 1958. Carbon-14 date of 750 A.D. for a coffin had received.

22nd Thursday

The Assistant Comptroller of Manpower says that eight hundred and five applicants for late registration for the National Service Registration, are received from the whole State of Sarawak, since the announcement of the closing date on August 5. Persons registered up to date including late registrations and volunteers total 14,381.

The Director of Operations in the Borneo States, Major-General Don W.C. Walker, describes the existing defence situation in the area as encouraging.

The total value of Sarawak's external trade for July, 1964 amounts to \$70.92 million. This was \$4.71 million less than the figure of the previous month and was \$4.24 million more than the total of \$66.19 million for corresponding period of 1963.

A small party of the Security Forces were carrying out demolitions near the Indonesian border when there was a premature explosion. As a result two members of the Security Forces were killed instantly. A civilian child was wounded in the stomach, the other soldier and the civilians were only slightly wounded. All the injured were evacuated to the Kuching General Hospital by helicopter and are said to be comfortable and in no danger. The next of kin have been informed.

The Federal Minister of Local Government and Housing Mr. Khan Kai Bok, arrives by air from Jesselton, says that Civil Defence Organisation will be established in Sarawak.

"Good Bye Green Jackets and the very best of luck" were shouted out by many at the Kuching Port at Tunah Puteh when the five hundred and seventy men of all ranks of the First Battalion of the Green Jackets embarked on the *46/87* and the *REGENTAL KAY* to sail for Malaya prior to their departure for the United Kingdom.

The Chief Scout of the Commonwealth, Sir Charles Maclean arrives from Sabah for a five-day visit.

A clash between Security Forces and Indonesian border terrorists in the Bera Lintang area of the Second Division of Sarawak has resulted in the killing of six terrorists and the wounding of a further four. One soldier of our forces was slightly wounded.

26th Saturday

A team of seven officers from the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Miri, Fourth Division, including the Assistant Controller Mr. E. A. Hawkin, donate blood to the Miri Hospital.

The Women's Institute, Ben Branch, a multi-racial body aimed at improving the welfare of women, holds a two-day fair in connection with the official opening of the new Ben District Council Building about a hundred yards' walk from the centre of the Bazaar.

26th Monday

The Coroner, Mr. H. S. Daniell inquires an "Open Verdict" as the re-opened inquest into the death of a political detainee, after expert evidence given by the Assistant Commissioner of the Royal Malaysian Police, Mr. A. A. Rajah.

The Canadian Defence Team which is now visiting Malaysia to assess the country's needs for the expansion of her Armed Forces arrives in Kuching to study the emergency situation.

The United States Ambassador to Malaysia, Mr. James D. Bell, arrives on a two-day visit to familiarize himself with the situation in the country.

The Chief Minister, in addressing a luncheon meeting given by the Sarawak Association in London, whose members consist of former officers of the Sarawak Government as well as those who have been in any way connected with Sarawak now resident in the United Kingdom gives an outline of some of the important things which have been going on in Sarawak before and since Malaysia.

Mr. Woe Hood Tuck, on behalf of his father, Don Woe Kheng Chiang donates a cheque for \$1,200.12 to buy a van for the Home of the Aged to the Chairman of the Social Welfare Council, Don (Dr) Soekadining.

The Director of Supply and Transport in the Ministry of Defence, Lieut. Colonel Ungku Ahmad bin Abdul Rahman, arrives for a brief visit to Supply and Transport units stationed in Kuching.

26th Tuesday

The Federal Secretary, Tuan Syed Hashim bin Abdullah emphasizes that the last thing the Malaysian Government wants is to have anyone under detention; but we are engaged in a life and death struggle.

26th Wednesday

Forty Women Police recruits are leaving for Kuala Lumpur for six and half months basic training at the Police Depot.

The Minister for Sarawak Affairs, Don Teohengong Jugh presents a \$1,000 cheque to Jang anak Tuan Ruman Mangat, Kampong Bunan, Debait, Second Division, whose husband, Giler Jimbat, a teacher of a Local Authority School at Selipong, was killed in an ambush by Indonesian Terrorists, on October 25 last year.

Twenty-two-year-old Peter Uwin dies in Kuching General Hospital as a result of a car accident. He was a BRC trainee.

26th Friday

An impressive ceremony is held at the Girl Guide Headquarters in Kuching when Datin Hajjah Masnah presents two awards. One is a "Thanks Badge" presented to Senator William Tan, the other the "Queen's Guide Certificate" awarded to Roslind Ibtis Sapers of Kuching.

Opening of the Sarawak Fishing Club by the H.E. the Governor at the Sarawak Turf Club.

26th Saturday

The Salvation Army Girls Home holds a successful sale of work.

DAVIDSON LEE.

Sports Commentary

by

RAJ MANSINGH

The Olympics

The 16th Olympic Games held in Tokyo this month, was undoubtedly the finest ever staged according to all reports, with first class amenities and organisation in every sport and aspect of the meeting. It was certainly a brilliant feast of sport for spectators with dozens of World and Olympic records being shattered, and blood-tugging thrilling moments in many events. There was that tremendous 9.9 second 100 metres by Hayes of the United States (even though wind assisted); the duel in the high jump between Brumel, U.S.S.R. and Thomas, U.S. and Brumel taking the gold only on a few number of inches; the 10,000 metres battle on the last lap among three runners neck and neck and so on.

Malaysian sportsmen, although not really expected to win medals, disappointed to a certain extent in not being represented in any final, the Jengathuban reached the semi-final of the 200 metres and was only inches away from a place in the final. The hockey team showed clearly that they were capable of holding their own in world class hockey, but were let down by goal-keeper, Ho Khe Chye who should have saved 5 of the 13 goals scored against Malaysia. If he had done so, it would have given them a place in the semi-finals.

SWIMMING

Here in Sarawak the second annual Inter-School Swimming Gala was held at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday 26th October, at the K.M.C. Olympic size pool. It is good to see competitive swimming gaining ground in this part of the world, with Sarawak having already organised the biggest gala so far at their own Olympic pool. On Saturday the wisdom of providing such a

first class amenity for all the youth of the capital was proved beyond doubt when one saw the enthusiasm, potential ability, and enjoyment of the competitors of the seven schools taking part. However, the promoters (the Education Department) and organisers must learn a number of lessons from their experience so far if they are going to raise the interest and performance in swimming in the schools. First it was a great mistake not to invite Batu Lintang Training College to take part simply because of the name college. The large secondary schools have many students of the same age or older than those at the college. Batu Lintang Training College is the only educational establishment in which swimming is compulsory for all students and it was a great pity that they were denied the opportunity of competing, having been the only individual competitors to hold their own swimming sports last year. I am sure their participation would have added much to the interest of the meeting. Secondly, what a strange time to hold a gala! This was an event which with sufficient publicity, should have drawn a very large crowd of interested spectators, but there are few (as it was proved) who wish to stand in the open sun from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Why not hold it in the cool of the evening from say 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.? Seating must be provided for spectators and real control exercised over those spectators not taking part in the event of the moment so that a clear view of each race may be enjoyed by those watching.

There was a number of very creditable performances by the schoolboys who improved in many events upon the times put up last year. St. Thomas's were the champions and the individual times shown below indicate the improvement over times last year shown in brackets:

Victor Than 50 m. Fre Style	48.8 sec. (51.5 sec.)
Josiah 100 m. Free Style	1 min. 5.0 sec.
St. Joseph 1st 50 m. Medley Relay	1 min. 39.8 (2.10.5 sec.)
Ng. Liang 50 m. Free Style	22.6 sec.
Victor Than 100 m. Fre. Stroke	1 min. 21.9 (1.39.5 sec.)
Josiah 50 m. Back Stroke	28.4 sec. (31.5 sec.)
Ng. Ahnkap 100 m. Free Style	41.1 sec.
Pu. Liang 100 m. Back Stroke	55.9 sec. (1.00.7 sec.)
St. Thomas 4x50 m. Relay	2 min. 11.7 sec. (2 min. 15.7)

Goldwyn Tan of St. Joseph's won the Flying Broom.

A water polo match was also staged between a combined schools team and a local team called "Seamruch", who proved far too strong for the schoolboys. However, it was quite an interesting game to watch and the boys are to be congratulated on their play after so little coaching in the game. This is another sport which could well be taken up by the schools and give a chance to those not so good at the usual soccer, hockey, basketball, etc.

Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals

Mr. W. B. Jones (Newly appointed Works Superintendent, Mechanical, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 19.11.1964.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Lavin (Mr. and daughter newly appointed Assistant Conservator of Forests)	On first appointment, 4.12.1964.
Mr. J.B. Langford (Newly appointed Works Superintendent Mechanical, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 4.12.1964.

Mr. T. M. Kennedy (Newly appointed Works Superintendent Mechanical, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 17.12.1964.
Mr. W.T. Wilson (Newly appointed Works Superintendent, Roads, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 11.12.1964.
Mrs. G.R.P. French	To join Mr. G. R. K. French.
Mr. and Mrs. P.W. Spicer and child	Returning from leave, 17.12.1964.
Mr. B. Mowatt (Newly appointed Works Superintendent Mechanical, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 18.12.1964.
Mr. P. Rimer (Newly appointed Works Superintendent Mechanical, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 20.12.1964.
Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Walker (Newly appointed Conservator of Forests)	On first appointment, 20.12.1964.
Mr. and Mrs. H. A. L. Freeman and child	Returning from leave, 21.12.1964.
Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Douglas (Newly appointed Rubber Development Officer)	On first appointment, 22.12.1964.
Miss L.G.M.P. Hensley (Newly appointed Nursing Sister)	On first appointment, 27.12.1964.
Mr. N. D. Lee (Newly appointed Works Superintendent, Water, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 31.12.1964.
Miss M.T. Keating (Newly appointed Medical Sister)	On first appointment, 3.1.1965.
Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bennett and 2 children (Newly appointed Executive Engineer (Mech.) F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 3.1.1965.
Mr. E.L. Duggan (Newly appointed Architect, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 3.1.1965.
Dr. H.J. Gold (Newly appointed Medical Officer)	On first appointment, 4.1.1965.
Mr. Father and Mrs. Evelyn and four children	Returning from leave, 5.1.1965.
Mr. T.C.R. Ryan (Newly appointed Works Superintendent, Roads, F.W.D.)	On first appointment, 11.1.1965.
Mr. J. A. Williams	To join Mr. J. A. Williams, 12.1.1965.

Departures

Mr. D. C. Walker and two children	Proceeding to U.K., 1.1.1965.
Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Dean	Proceeding to U.K. on completion of contract, 1.1.1965.
Mr. M. S. Johnson	Proceeding to U.K. on completion of contract, 3.1.1965.
Mr. T. A. Oliver	Proceeding to U.K. on leave, 1.1.1965.
Mr. C. A. E. Wilson	Proceeding to U.K. on leave prior to retirement, 7.1.1965.

Mrs. G. Lloyd-Thomas	Proceeding to U.K. 10.10.1964.	Dr. and Mrs. M. T. Read	Proceeding to U.K. on leave prior to retirement, 10.10.1964.
Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Twissell	Proceeding to U.K. on leave prior to retirement, 10.10.1964.	Mr. D. D. Wadhawan	Proceeding to U.K. on leave, 9.11.1964.
Mrs. W. Dennis and two children	Proceeding to U.K. 12.10.1964.	Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Marsell	Proceeding to U.K. on leave, 9.11.1964.
Dr. M. B. Watts	Proceeding to U.K. on leave, 14.10.1964.	Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Cunningham-Smith and (2 sons)	Proceeding to U.K. 14.11.1964.
Mr. C. H. S. Coad	Proceeding to U.K. on completion of contract, 15.10.1964.	Mr. and Mrs. J. G. R. Austin	Proceeding to U.K. on leave prior to retirement, 15.11.1964.
Mr. L. J. Foster	Proceeding to U.K. on leave, 15.10.1964.	Miss M. I. Smathers	Proceeding to U.K. 16.11.1964.
Mr. D. C. Walker	Proceeding to U.K. on leave, 14.11.1964.	Mrs. R. G. Williams	Proceeding to U.K. on leave, 16.11.1964.

DECEMBER, 1964

CALENDAR			MOON PHASES		HIGH WATER	
Day	Calendar	Month	☉ 4th New Moon 11th First Quarter	☾ 10th Full Moon 17th Last Quarter	Kuching	Miri
Tues.	1	10	27		0300	1155
Wed.	2	10	28		0341	1240
Th.	3	10	29			
Fri.	4	1	30		0416	1322
Sat.	5	2	1		0446	1399
SUN.	6	3	2		0516	1437
Mon.	7	4	3		0546	1504
Tues.	8	5	4		0616	1532
Wed.	9	6	5		0647	1553
Th.	10	7	6		0724	1617
Fri.	11	8	7		0804	1639
Sat.	12	9	8		0837	1648
SUN.	13	10	9		0859	1656
Mon.	14	11	10		0916	1658
Tues.	15	12	11		0928	1657
Wed.	16	13	12		0936	1654
Th.	17	14	13		0940	1648
Fri.	18	15	14		0939	1639
Sat.	19	16	15		0934	1626
SUN.	20	17	16		0926	1610
Mon.	21	18	17		0915	1594
Tues.	22	19	18		0900	1575
Wed.	23	20	19		0882	1553
Th.	24	21	20		0862	1529
Fri.	25	22	21		0840	1504
Sat.	26	23	22		0816	1478
SUN.	27	24	23		0790	1450
Mon.	28	25	24		0762	1420
Tues.	29	26	25		0734	1389
Wed.	30	27	26		0705	1356
Th.	31	28	27		0676	1321

Kuching Market Price List

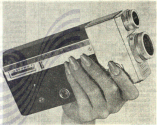
October, 1964

	Average		Average
Rice —(per gantang)		Vegetables —(per katil)—Contd.	
Local, White, Government Milled	—	Bean Sprouts	30
Local, White, Milled	—	Cabbage	35
Siam White 100%	2.20	Changkak Manis	40
Siam "A"	1.90	Cucumber (Tinsan)	26
China Rice	1.60	Chilies, Red	1.48
Siam Broken Rice	1.50	Chilies, Green	65
Bangka	—	Cham Bawang	95
Sugar —(per katil)		Eranda Putih	48
White Sugar	30	Eranda Besar	48
Brown Sugar	80	Eranda Bunga	48
Nipah Sugar	40	French Beans	60
Salt —(per katil)		Garlic, fresh	1.35
Coarse	30	Ginger	78
Fine	30	Kuchang Panjang	40
Nipah	1.20	Kangkong Ayer	30
Flour and Biscuit		Kangkong Koon	40
White Flour, per katil	30	Keladi Batawi	15
Bread, per small loaf	25	Keladi China	30
Bread, per large loaf	45	Kerela	40
Milk —(per tin)		Kemang	15
(a) Condensed		Kondor	30
(i) Liberty Brand	35	Lada	30
(ii) Tin Pot	35	Lada Putih	30
(iii) Milk Maid	70	Lada Hitam	40
(iv) Local Fresh Milk	80	Loison	75
Eggs —(tray)		Lobak (Chinese Radish)	60
Turkey	30	Lobak, white	50
Duck, fresh	35	Onions, Bombay	20
Duck, salted	35	Onions, small	50
Fowl	35	Onions, Imported	20
Edible Fat —(per lb.)		Prick (Bitter Guard)	65
Butter	2.00	Sauerkraut, Imported	1.37
Cocunut Oil	10	Sauerkraut, Local	70
Vegetable Oil	15	Tamarind (Bhat Asam)	40
Lard, No. 1	1.50	Tomatoes	1.35
Lard, No. 2	80	Trong (Bintang)	35
Ghee	2.20	Samen, No. 1 (per bottle)	1.10
Dripping	80	Samen, No. 2 (per bottle)	80
Pork —(per katil)		Samen, No. 3 (per bottle)	50
Lean, No. 1	3.40	Tea —(per lb.)	
Lean with Fat, No. 2	2.40	Tia, Ceylon	4.30
Fat	80	Tia, Chinese	1.80
Ribs	2.00	Coffee —(per katil)	
Beef —(per katil)		Raw, Java No. 1, Local	2.00
Beef, steak	3.20	Raw, No. 2	1.90
Beef, Curry meat	1.80	Powder (1st quality)	2.20
Buffalo, No. 1	3.20	Fruits —(each)	
Buffalo, Curry meat	1.80	Pisang Umbon (per katil)	12
Mutton, Australian	3.00	Pisang Tandok	15-25
Mutton, Local	3.00	Mama	20-1.00
Poultry —(per katil)		Beef Batak (per katil)	20
Capon	2.20	Smolies	
Chinese Cocks	1.95	Bean hard (per piece)	10
Fallen	2.00	Bean cake, white (per piece)	10
Chinese Hen	1.60	Bean cake, yellow (per piece)	25
Dryak Fowl	1.70	Blackon (per katil)	70
Ducks	1.60	Charcoal (per picul)	8.50
Musovy	1.50	Cocunut, Fresh (each)	20
Cross-Breed	1.50	Cornd Beef (per tin)	1.20
Geese	1.50	Dried Fowl (per katil)	2.00-3.00
Fish —(per katil)		Kerosene Oil (per tin)	4.00
Fresh Fish, No. 1	1.40	Machos, Local (per box)	20
Fresh Fish, No. 2	80	Machos, Imported (per box)	10
Fresh Fish, No. 3	50	Soap, washing, local (per bar)	60
Prurus, No. 1	1.60	Soap, washing, Imported (per bar)	80
Prurus, No. 2	80	Salomon (per tin)	1.60
Crab, No. 1	1.20	Sardines (per tin)	70
Crab, No. 2	80	Bako Wood (per panchang)	25.00
Salted Fish, No. 1	2.40	Cigarettes	
Salted Fish, No. 2	1.10	Playon (per packet of 10)	50
Salted Fish, No. 3	70	Rough Rider (per packet of 10)	40
Vegetables —(per katil)		Caven "A"	50
Bamboo Shoots, salted	35	White Eagle	45
Bangkok (Ulukeya)	10	State Express (per tin)	2.25
Bangkaung	30	Capitan (per packet of 10)	40
Bayam	40	State Express 215 (per packet of 10)	50
		Lucky Strike (per packet of 20)	80

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actual size of the

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settings and single frame exposures also possible. Single lens reflex view-finder for highly magnified, parallax-free viewing (the next your Canon dealer will be pleased to tell you).

Hard to believe isn't it? When you inspect your Cine Canonet 8 you will find it harder to believe that it costs a mere \$360 (Singapore and Penang) or \$345 (Federation). But when you see the results you'll know all we've said is true.



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