

Sarawak Gazette

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TUESDAY, MARCH 31st, 1939

Secondary Education

ACROSS differences of opinion about education are no new thing in Sarawak but the recent controversy in Kuching over admission to secondary schools has been unusually intense. Considerable publicity has been given to a debate on this subject in the Kuching Municipal Council; there have been official statements of policy, a major press conference, a discussion broadcast by Radio Sarawak, and interviews with members of the public reported in the press. One can only guess what other activities have been going on behind the scenes.

The controversy appears to have originated in dissatisfaction at the results of a public examination. When criticisms of this examination had been, or at least to some extent, answered, the centre of interest shifted, and it was alleged that large numbers of young people had been thrown out of school and were roaming the streets. How unfounded were these allegations was shown by figures published in the press relating to two large English-medium schools, and by the lack of applicants for a proposed new middle school. It did however become clear that in future years there would be numbers of children finishing their schooling

between the ages of twelve and fourteen years. It is on this aspect of the situation that public attention is now focused. Responsible citizens of Kuching have urged that to prevent a gap between the age of leaving school and the age of entering urban employment it should be Government's policy to provide education for all children until the age of fifteen or sixteen. The Director of Education and the Development Secretary have given reasons for regarding this policy as not a practicable one for the immediate future, chiefly because it would require very large additional expenditure on secondary education. The Director of Education fears that such expenditure would result in curtailing the funds needed to implement the policy of universal primary education. The Development Secretary has explained that a large increase in expenditure on education would upset the balance of Sarawak's development plan, in which provision must be found, not only for education, but for many other important aspects of economic and social development.

We feel that those who in the municipal debate and in the broadcast discussion accused Government of not doing enough for education have been less than just in their appreciation of the progress made in education during recent years and of the very large sums now devoted to education in the national budget. While few will deny the general importance of education and its role in preparing the country for self-government, there is much need for some discrimination between particular forms and branches of education. Government's present aim of providing primary education for all and secondary education, within the limits of available finance, for those who can benefit most from it, seems designed to meet the two fundamental aims for a self-governing democracy—a universally literate people and well-educated leaders in all spheres of public life. One may be permitted to doubt whether progress towards political maturity will be appreciably hastened by adding further to the many hundreds of pupils who each year fail to complete successfully the junior secondary course.

There remains however a social problem created by the age gap between the end of the primary school period and the beginning of urban employment. This is essentially an urban problem. We can understand the reluctance of the Education Department to deflect funds required for the educational needs of the country as a whole towards the special needs of two or three towns which already receive far more than their share of the public funds available for education. Is not the answer to this problem that Kuching must provide from its own resources, private or municipal, the funds needed to extend secondary education to the municipality beyond the level that can be afforded for the country as a whole? If this leads to the establishment of unaided secondary schools under the management of voluntary agencies or of the municipality, it should only be necessary to insist on two requirements—that such schools comply fully with the laws and regulations relating to schools, and that the funds for such schools are really drawn from Kuching and not from the primary producers of the rural areas.

Notes and Comments

His Excellency the Governor has departed on leave and the Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. A. R. Seelan, has been sworn in as Officer Administering the Government.

The Australian Ninth Division was responsible for liberating Borneo from the Japanese occupation. To commemorate this event, the Division and the Australian Government have sponsored a special Scholarship. This has been awarded to a Dayak school-boy, Benjamin Dublin, the son of Chief Inspector Dublin and Sijar who was, this year, awarded the Colonial Police Medal. Benjamin will read for a B.A. degree at Sydney University with a view to entering the Administration on his return.

Publicity is being given to the question of forming a political party. Organized political parties are a relatively new development in man's affairs and, apart from the neo-fascist parties of totalitarian states, have usually sprung from a situation where groups of members of the legislature found themselves with fundamentally opposed views on policy. This situation does not obtain in Sarawak but if the proposed party is evidence of an interest in public affairs and the welfare of the country it is a welcome sign. The more people there are interested in scrutinizing public administration in the right spirit, the better public administration will be. Government tries to act for the best but different people have different ideas on what is the best and, in a democracy, are allowed to express their ideas. When they are done in a responsible manner, Government and the people benefit.

It has been announced that the Constabulary intends to establish a Women's Section as soon as adequate training facilities are available. The announcement seems to be a little ambiguous but we assume that it means more policemen making the streets rather than coffee, cakes and knitting at Redoubt barracks on Thursday afternoons. While the announcement has caused a flutter amongst the disengaged female members of the community, who are now wondering what the uniform will be like and whether it will suit their hair-style, male members of the community are filled with apprehension and are anxiously contemplating submitting a petition averring that this step cannot but be subversive of good order in the community. For some reason, wrongplaces, in the legal sense, tend mostly to be made and while they can expect some sympathy from their fellow men who are in the police, the same understanding is not to be expected from women, who are notoriously hard-hearted when the frailty of the male is in question. The petition, based as it will be, on substantial constitutional grounds and the principles of natural justice, should have every prospect of success but if it fails, then the only hope is that the uniform will be as attractive that the "mattings" rate amongst the new Amazons will be high.

The Chief Justice was to have left Sarawak on the 16th March on leave prior to retirement but his indisposition which occurred just before His Royal Highness's visit last month has recurred and he and Lady Williams have had to postpone their departure.

Sir Ernest has had thirty-five years service, all of which was in Hong Kong until his arrival here in 1953. During his term of office here, he has enhanced the stature of the Judiciary and earned the reputation of being painstaking in his inquiry into the facts of a case and the law, sympathetic and courteous to all who appeared before him and unshakable in his devotion to justice.

Lady Williams is well-known through her work for the Kuching Division of the British Red Cross Society,

of which she was President, and for her ready hospitality.

Their many friends hope that Sir Ernest will soon be fit again and wish them both a long and happy retirement.

The morning of Wednesday the 18th produced the shocking sight of various distinguished officers of Government wading their way to work in Kuching. A high debris belt from the previous night, after a long dry spell, and just before dawn it developed into a violent storm and rain descended like a curtain. At the peak traffic period when people were going to work it was still raining heavily and all the usual spots were flooded. The Secretariat rose grimly out of a lake—but did not, on that account, resemble in the least a French chateau—and the depth of water outside the front entrance was two feet. The entry, in the true Guards tradition, sloshed stolidly up and down in boots, petters and gaiters, indifferent to the rain, the flood and the hidden menace of the drain.

Vast numbers of cameras were in evidence during His Royal Highness's tour, some of them in the most extraordinary positions. An exhibition of some of the photographs which were taken was given at the premises of the British Council in Kuching. The palm, in our opinion, was blown off by Mr. Kong Siew Kim, the photographer of *The Sarawak Tribune*, whose photographs were uniformly vivid, revealing, clear and well-produced.

Someone said "When did she find time to eat and sleep?" It was at the exhibition of the work of Miss Margaret Woo in the British Council Library in Kuching. Miss Woo has just returned from Australia where after studying arts and crafts for three years under a Colombo Plan Scholarship in the Melbourne Teacher's College, she obtained a Secondary Teacher's Certificate for Arts and Crafts. The certificate has been well earned. The walls of the Library were hung with a large collection of oils and water-colours; landscapes, studies, interiors, still-life and abstractions; experiments in colour, tone, texture, composition and design. Also on display were ceramics, carved wood, lamps and lampshades, handbags, fabrics, embroidery, book-binding and a handsome album illustrating printed patterns and motifs.

A remarkable expedition took place to the village of Pa Mein in the old Barun on Sunday the 22nd. A message had reached the Resident at Miri that a woman was seriously ill and urgently required medical aid. The message was forwarded to Kuching and Government asked the Commander-in-Chief, Far East Land Forces, in Singapore to help. The result was the arrival of a Royal Air Force Valiant at Kuching airport at 5 a.m. on Sunday, with a doctor and assistants. Mr. Seal, the Operations Officer, who knows the area well, joined the party as guide-com-batman officer and dropped with them by parachute on the airfield at Pa Meis, from where it is about three hours' march to Pa Meis.

This was a fine gesture on the part of the Commander-in-Chief and the Royal Air Force, an example both of their spirit of co-operation and their efficiency. It was also a fine act by Mr. Seal. It is not everyone who would volunteer to make a parachute drop without the usual preparation and practice.

The article on "The Chinese" concludes the series on the Peoples of Sarawak which began in an issue of June, 1958, and which were originally commissioned and broadcast, as a series of talks, by Radio Sarawak. As Mr. T. Harrison's wish, the last talk, which was given by him, will not be published in this series.

Messages on the Duke's Visit

The following messages were exchanged between His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and His Highness the Rajah—

Telegram: "Rajah Brooke sends his warmest greetings to His Royal Highness and respectfully wishes him an enjoyable visit to his old home."

Telegram: "Thank you for your very kind thoughtful message step Sarawak has more than lived up to my expectations. Philip".

H.M. Yacht Britannia,
At Sea, Sandakan—Hong Kong,
2nd March, 1959

"My dear Sir Charles,

Further to The Duke of Edinburgh's telegram from Miri which you should have already received, His Royal Highness has asked me to write to you and say that he was most impressed by the sound foundation of good government which was laid in Sarawak by your family.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) JAMES GUN".

11 Albion Street,
London, W. 1.

"My dear Mr. Cox,

I am most obliged to you for your letter of the 2nd instant, and I would ask you to convey to His Royal Highness my sincere thanks for his very kind message.

It being the first occasion on which The Duke of Edinburgh has visited Sarawak, I was most touched to receive from His Royal Highness so heartening a statement of appreciation of our efforts to lay the foundation of good government for the people of the country.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) VYNER BROOKE".

The following letter was received by the President of the Kuching Municipal Council—

"I have been asked by the Duke of Edinburgh to write to you and say what very great pleasure it gave him to visit Kuching on Thursday and Friday.

His Royal Highness was quite overwhelmed by the warmth and magnitude of the reception given him by the people and very greatly appreciated all the generous hospitality which was extended to him during his brief stay.

Prince Philip was full of admiration and praise for the delightful way in which the town was decorated and illuminated and he would be grateful if you would convey his sincere congratulations to all those concerned.

His Royal Highness was very pleased to have this opportunity of meeting you personally and very much enjoyed his interesting drive with you through the town on Friday morning."

The Chairman of the Sibu Urban District Council received a letter from the Private Secretary in His Royal Highness expressing His Royal Highness appreciation for the warm welcome which he received in Sibu and for the gifts of Dassek and Melanau costumes which "will undoubtedly give great pleasure in 'The Prince of Wales and the Princess Anne'". His Royal Highness was delighted to have had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Ting Lik Hong personally and inspecting the new town centre and the playing field. He requested that he was unable to stay longer.

* * *

Melanau Sketches

Kuala Oya is practically indistinguishable from the sea but the eagle eyes of the Jampun picked it out and his skilful navigation brought us through the tricky channels to the jetty where Datu Pengasin Lai and the Tan Kiangong were waiting. They came aboard for refreshments while the kit was being off and we sat chatting under the scrutiny of a crowd on the jetty.

The houses at Datar are old, dilapidated and pointless. There is a path to Sungai Ud about five minutes away but no other road. This is essentially a riverine village and without a compass, one is practically immobile. Jampuns dart everywhere, propelled with dignified ease by gerrymen from four-year-olds to stately septagenarian matrons cloaked in black with gold borders. At night, the sampans have a pressure lamp in the bows and the blackness of the river is dotted with gliding points of light.

Sengri Ud has a large Jelling, an ancient burial monument of uncertain age. It seems to be made of cotton but the years have worn away its carvings and it is greatly weathered. About four or five feet up, there is a large hole where the bones of persons of high rank were placed after the flesh decayed. It was the custom to tie a live slave to the top and leave him to die of heat, thirst and starvation.

The procedure of the Datar Parish Council was of a high grade. The Datu presided majestically and conducted the proceedings with regal tact. Melanau elders rose, made their points in starchy Malay with a balance, precision and polish worthy of Queen's Counsel. The Clerk was the very model of a Clerk; quiet and unobtrusive but every letter and every minute was produced at precisely the right moment and every point that required to be made was made under his discreet guidance. The S.A.O. had briefed himself thoroughly on the agenda and had the relevant law and policy at his finger tips. Differences of opinion were indicated in the most subtle fashion and were equally subtle and smoothly resolved. Members of more prominent Councils might derive much advantage from observing these proceedings.

Mix some steam in the basuan. They were neither clean nor preposterous-looking but they were typically friendly and warm. They gave us a section of bamboo filled with eggplant, fat, rich and yellow. It is used to give flavour to rice. When the rice is hot from the pot, the fat is rubbed over it, a little salt and coats the rice thinly with oil. It is not highly flavoured but it is nutritious and it makes the rice more toothsome.

Cycled from Oya to Mahah for a Council meeting. The road lies along the beach; to be more accurate, it is the beach. At various points, signs to handwood marked "In" and "Out" indicated the sections of road

leading over streams impassable by car, or by bicycle at high tide. At the major rivers—Bako, Penu, Jadau and Penan—it was necessary to go inland over an arc of road hung over with tall trees and, in the case of Penu and Jadau, lined with mangroves, a refreshing sight after the crowded beach and the shimmering sea. Penu, with its green fields and scattered houses has an air of rural England. But the atomic factories are missing. The villagers are sturdy fishing folk, unaffected by road vehicles. The Sungai Bako road by night is silent and eerie with trees narrowly flanking the road and overhanging it. The area has a wandering restless ghost of which many stories are told. They are unauthenticated but this is irrelevant to the local people who do not possess the precise mind and are free from the thirst for Fact which the West has acquired (though only in its more educated representatives) in the last hundred years. Truth has many meanings as Penan, Penu knew and Fact, although its importance should not be understated, is not necessarily a synonym.

It was 4.30 a.m. when a voice softly calling outside summoned me to the beach. The morning air was chilly on the estuary and the sea recompensed us like an endless carpet of grey silk. A light breeze behind the square tail of the sailing *barong* and we plunged away into nothingness. The crew were comfortably lolling against the bows, drinking tea and eating oysters out of early tins. I declined the offer of a share, having breakfasted before leaving my house, and this confirmed everybody's expectation that I was going to be sick.

Several miles out, a hundred or so coconut fronds were anchored, waiting our visit, and, if we were lucky, pomfret and blue *jeruak* would be basking in their shade. If fish are seen under a frond, a large scoop net is let down on the starboard side of the *barong*. The frond is hoisted towards the vessel by a line at the end of which is a wooden diver's belt. The fish under the frond follow it until they are over the net. Meanwhile two divers are out on the ends of the scoop. They submerge and pull the scoop down, heaving the hauls almost onto her beam. When the fish are over the net, the scoops are released, those ahead leap in the port side and the net comes out of the sea with its catch. It is not an arduous method of fishing—it is suited only to calm weather—and no one does much work apart from the divers and the jergues, on whom the success of the voyage largely depends. Back in the estuary, outboard wake to come dashing alongside the returning *barong*, the surplus fish are weighed and borne off to a launch filled with ice. Subsequently, the fish will grace dinner tables in Delat and Eba and perhaps even Kuching on occasion. The takings are divided amongst the boat (two shares), the engine (one and a half), the jergues (two shares) and the crew (one share each). There are usually about fifteen people in a *barong* but the number varies.

By eight o'clock the sea was fierce, beating like a hammer on the fringed sea. We were wearing thick clothes and winded or straw hats but the boat was trying nonchalantly and when we stopped at sea to have a meal, several pieces of hat marins were produced and little turns sprang up on the deck. With the aid of heavy razor-sharp knives, pomfret and *jeruak* were cleaned and filed with the ease, beautiful precision of a surgeon. The slices were paper-thin and there were three different sauces to dip them in. With a squeeze of lime-juice and a handful of sage pearls, they made a meal which Penan might have envied.

This was *penau* fishing. The other method of fishing requiring communal effort, is known as *asahan*. This consists of laying a long dragnet parallel to the shore. At each end is a very long rope and a team of about seven men wade-deep in the sea haul the net into

a great semi-circle centred on the beach. Each man has a rope round his waist which he latches on to the net-rope, he hauls backward until he is well up the beach, untatches and goes forward into the sea and repeats the process. The whole operation takes about an hour and a half. Everyone wears a long-sleeved shirt, rubber or leather gauntlets two pairs of old trousers caught at the ankles by a pile or two pairs of rolled stockings. The clothing is some protection against jellyfish and stone corals, a kind of caution noticeable for the poisonous wounds inflicted by the serrated spines of its dorsal and pectoral fins. Orange-coloured jelly fish are very common and give a nasty sting. An astonishing rag-bag of fish is caught by this method. A few days before, a huge starfish, weighing ten pounds was in the collection.

In the shallow sea between Kuala Mito and Kuala Ova were the *jeruak* and *tilong* pen up by the three fishing *barong* centred on Kuala Mito.

The principle of the *jeruak* is two converging rows of stakes, carefully staked with an eye to currents and tides, leading to a narrow passage where a large scoop net is staked. When the tide is ebbing into the passage, a swarm of fish (it is hoped) enters. The stakes *tilong* in the water and the fish tend to stay in the narrow of the passage and, since it is not their habit to turn and flee, they soon find themselves on the waiting scoop-net.

The *tilong* is similar to the *jeruak* but the passage leads into a wire-netting enclosure from which the fish cannot escape. The *tilong* has the advantage that it goes on trapping fish all the time whereas the *jeruak* requires someone to be there to operate it.

Both these types of trap suffer from bad weather. The stakes may be swept away or the matrix raised. This wastes *jeruak* propensities more than *tilong* propensities since the former do not generally fare so well as the latter. In fact *asahan* fishermen will tell you that they can do better than any *jeruak*. The *asahan* fisherman has the advantage that his capital outlay is small, he is mobile and can follow the fish and when they are so fish he can employ himself more usefully in his garden. *Asahan*: *Asahan* in Ova is used to describe the drift-net method of fishing, known elsewhere as *asahan*. What is known elsewhere as *asahan* is here known as *asahan*.

The Mito river is very narrow and is bounded on either side by flat land where sage and rice are planted. Between the Kuala and Mito there is little of note save Kempong Nek where there is one of the few remaining Melanau longhouses. It is a very old building but in good repair. Unlike the Iban longhouse, it has no exterior verandah and a long, high, wide, central corridor serves the purpose of the Iban interior verandah. The verandah, the floor of which is of solid plank timber, is dim since the only source of light is a window at either end. On each side are thirteen *bilik*, suitable for the fact that they have no doors and the passer by is at liberty to inspect the entire interior. The population of this house is a hundred and sixty and it is clean and pleasant place. The dogs, chickens, cocks, pigs and other variegated animal life which mark the Iban longhouse are absent and, by comparison the Melanau house seems curiously lifeless.

Mito has a bright, spacious air; flat, open, green country with the windy river flowing softly through it like a Spenserian stream. The flat banks are frequently under water and the only road is a plank or gangway on timber pilings running airily from the shorehouses downriver, up past the Government office and, the police and Government quarters to the upper bridge leading to the village.

Mounted at the Government wharf is the old *Alrova*, converted with considerable imagination into a house-boat and decorated with tans.

From Mata come the hats of woven bamboo in natural colours, interspersed with beads and silver wire and with a silver corona at their apex. Bright flowers and stars are the most frequent contemporary themes of the embroidery but the classical design consists of simple crosses arranged in a pattern. The best hats are made by the wife and daughter of the *tan-kampeng*. *Abang Abdul Qham*, a man of distinguished manners.

The river up to Kampong Tian was, at the time, no more than six feet wide and a foot deep but the surrounding country becomes a lake during the rains. The *kampung* is built on very high piles in consequence. It is of considerable antiquity and contains many small longhouses of sixty or seventy people living in one vast open apartment. The training line of the village is its most attractive feature. The people are renowned for their handsome appearance, smooth skin, the colour of honey and classic proportions. The women are said to be the most beautiful in Sarawak.

The taping of sago is still done by hand here and the method of treading the sago differs from that elsewhere employed. Instead of spreading the pith on a square mat to be trodden by one or two persons, it is put in a large cone basket, the person treading it steps inside and rotates in a slow-motion shuffling gait.

The narrow overhanging Alakan canal, linking the Mata and Dato rivers begins here.

Back in Mata, a large crowd had turned up to listen to a tale of human frailty being unfolded in the District Court. An elderly gentleman with a youthful wife found her in flagrant delinquency with their large, young lodger, in a rubber garden. The elderly gentleman, enraged and affronted, whipped out his pistol and managed to slash the lodger on the arm before he fled with the wife. That night have been out of the matter but the husband, righteously indignant, went to complain to the police. There he learnt that law and morality are not the same thing and to his astonishment he was charged with voluntarily causing hurt with a cutting instrument.

The young prosecutor called the lodger, a youth of particular appearance in a black singlet, as his first witness and elicited the incredible story that the witness and the wife were standing talking when the husband arrived and attacked the witness with a *pusang*. Having thus laid the foundation of his case, the prosecutor then began to cross-examine the witness on the basis that his evidence was untrue! The witness was clearly unused to talking lies but he adhered to his original evidence.

The wife, pretty but in a rigid silk, was called next and she refused to take the oath as he affirmed. The Magistrate asked her if she was unwilling to give evidence against her husband. She replied that she was perfectly willing to give evidence but she was not prepared to swear or affirm that it was true! That disposed of her as a witness and the case quickly proceeded over to the defence. The counsel told his story with simplicity and patent sincerity. When he had finished, no one was in any doubt as to the truth of the matter except, apparently, the prosecutor, whose last question in cross-examination was "What reason do you think your wife could have had to do this with this man?"

Unfortunately, an official engagement prevented me from hearing the answer to this question.

The distinguished sixty-year old patriarch who accompanied me stayed to hear the rest. Telling me about it afterwards he clicked his tongue disapprovingly and said: *Priksang alahen before gajah! Ompu in apertu hianang.* He himself had just married a twenty-year-old girl a month or so before.

There was a *haloh* ceremony going on in a house in Kampong Alakan at Oya, on the night of my return. The patient was a girl who lived in a world of her own. She was subtle and pretty, but, on this occasion, grievously distressed. The healer was a middle-aged gentleman from Daiti whose powers were renowned. The girl sat in the centre of the floor with her hair loose about her shoulders and her face white as the operator chanted, largely unintelligibly. He stroked the girl's body with palm, took empty cigarette tins, shouted spells into them, placed them on the girl's head and various parts of her body, and after more spells, shook them sharply from her and cast them out of the window. From time to time he expressed a feeling of hunger and was given glowing charcoal which he chomped with exaggerated satisfaction. The crowd present thought this an amazing parlor-trick but were unimpressed. They were interested to see whether the girl would benefit from her treatment. Sometimes they do and sometimes they don't. It depends on the strength of the spirit possessing them and the will of Allah.

Outside two of the houses in Kampong Titiun Ulu hung a large variety of colourful flags including standards proudly indicating the nine-pink rank of the occupants. Old Brunei custom lined the gateway from the floating jerry to the house. Everyone was dressed in their finery, the men—although *tan Madani*,—in *songket* and short sarong over their trousers and with golden *sewangin* buttons on their shirts.

Below, two masked grotesques were miming in the undergrowth, issuing forth to pursue small boys who fled with screams of mingled terror and delight.

The sultan in the house sat round in a large circle facing the great crimson velvet and screen, with elaborate gold tracery and other decorations, adorning the alcove containing the *napak* couch. In front of the screen, in a row, sat three grave elders, the representatives of the bride's family, waiting to receive and inspect the formal customary gifts presented by the family of the groom. Presently the bearing of goods was heard, a *poraka* drew up to the jerry and a procession emerged bearing the betrothal and bridal gifts: an ornamented spear, gold, pearl, a crescent, a sword, more gold, a wooden bowl, a gold thread handkerchief and a piece of old Chinese pottery.

They entered the house looking subdued, and with gestures of self-deprecating politeness the first personage bowed to the bride's representatives and sat cross-legged before them. The last discussion over dowry and the other gifts had taken place before and a settlement had been agreed but there was still a little room for manoeuvre and skilful, witty words experienced in the customary code are much in demand. However, the occasion was public and unassuming; honour must be preserved and courtesy maintained. At the same time, adroit flattery could win public sympathy and support and an advantage be gained over the other side. Behind their grave and impassive demeanour the wits loved themselves up and the spectators prepared to enjoy themselves.

"These bangles are very fine but is their weight not somewhat light? Would it not be proper to add another?"

"Their wrinkle in the hand is a thing of the mind. In the scales they are true. However in view of the extent of the sage-gardens given in dowry, generous even for a bride of such notably distinguished descent, it would not be unreasonable to prefer bridal gifts a fraction less than custom normally demands".

The procession came and went and came again. One by one gifts were presented, examined and discussed with many dry thrusts on either side. At length the bride's representatives declared themselves satisfied and issued an invitation for the groom, sitting the while unhappily at home, to approach. A small flotilla of boats accompanied him on his journey, decorated with flags flying and songs and drums beating. In the centre of his boat he sat, with serious face and moving not a muscle, wearing an unembroidered cap and jacket. Nine flags flew from his standard. His eyes were modestly cast down and in his hand he held a handkerchief. His boat men took the other end of the handkerchief and conducted him through the crowd of guests and spectators into the house where the bride, a beauty whose radiance was dimmed by the embarrassment of the occasion into a look of unbecoming reticence, sat on one of twin thrones. The groom, casting not so much as a glance in her direction, was led to the other throne, seated, and their hands were simply and respectfully joined.

The art of conversation has not, in the East, suffered the decline that it has in the West and the *Tuan Jawan*.—there by country—the *nan kungpang* and various other local notables made charming and witty dinner companions.

At night, on the way home on foot through one of the Oya villages, an old man came down from his house which was ahead of me on the path. He hurried along the path in my direction but when he saw me he turned and rushed back and took up guard on the steps of his house until I had passed. Presumably, he suspected, on my part, potential robbery and rape of the gemstone. This little incident is illustrative of *caution* in Oya.

A boy in a cap, and, among and below, brought a formally written invitation from the *Tuan Rila* to attend a public reading of the Koran to be given by his daughter. The ceremonies began in the evening with a *hadrak* celebration. The *Tuan Rila*'s house blazed with purple lamps and a special verandah with a canopy had been built on to the front of the house for the occasion. This was on two levels, the higher one being for the more consequential guests. The order of precedence was maintained in the placing of the guests with a strictness which would have satisfied the masters of the *Penang* *Saint George's*. The Koran was produced on a lectern and starting at the head, was passed down the double row of guests each one reading a fairly lengthy passage. At the conclusion of the readings, *hadrak* were chanted, almost interminably, by two groups of young men in alternation. They put their heart and soul into it and one group had no sooner finished, with a spirited series of drum beats, the lively concluding passage of its *hadrak*, than the other group lustily commenced the analogous movement of theirs. Meanwhile refreshments were being served in the most courtly fashion, on lacquered trays, on the upper verandah.

Next day the reading took place. The preliminaries were much the same but the house was gaily decorated and on large tables outside were a host of dished eggs hung with flags, miniature *darogay* and ponds of most artistic paper flowers, stick on cigarettes tin filled with cotton-coloured slat. These tables were subsequently distributed to favoured guests.

I had been at a loss to know what present to make the daughter in honour of this event and eventually selected the most expensive among which the bazaar had to offer from its limited and utilitarian collection.

It was only when the procession, winding its way from the house of her religious teacher, bearing her home in triumph, arrived, that I saw she was only a little girl—nine years old.

PETER MACQUEY

Development of Agriculture in Sarawak

The fact that Sarawak is popularly known as an agricultural country may present the false impression that it is producing much of farm produce other than rubber, pepper and suga.

A very casual study of the Annual Statistics compiled and published by the Department of Trade and Customs will reveal that the bulk of Sarawak's essential foods are imported: rice from Thailand, Burma, Indo-China and China Mainland, and the rest of subsidiary foods China Mainland, Thailand, Japan, United Kingdom, America or elsewhere via Hong Kong and Singapore.

Soil, topographical and economic limitations may have contributed to why Sarawak has not been able to be self-sufficient in the production of rice. Also, there is the overall consideration that, since rice can be obtained more cheaply by importation rather than by local production, there is no sound economic reason to disregard the adage that, "since milk is cheap, why breed our own cows?" Whatever it is, there are adequate grounds to state that, as of now, Sarawak is not yet in a position to produce all her own foods, be they essential or subsidiary.

On the other hand, with a fast growing population that must be fed and for whom employment must be found, whatever plans there may be for the gradual industrialisation of the country must go hand in hand with improvements on our present agricultural methods, and agricultural pursuits being encouraged to ensure that they pay economically, so that, in final analysis, the necessary agricultural output of the country may be increased.

The recent Rubber Development Scheme and subsidy for more coconut-planting may be considered a very wise move towards long-range economic planning though, as has been repeatedly voiced by agricultural leaders, such development scheme should include other staple and cash-earning export crops as well, such as pepper and suga.

In principle, any government should and would encourage agricultural production, though what should receive priority is a matter for expert researches and decision. Presumably such studies should embrace economic as well as political and social considerations.

One of the ways that Government could encourage production and the export of certain commodities is by the exercise of a protective tariff, viz. lowering the tariff for certain selected items on the export list or imposing an import duty on certain items of farm produce which hitherto have been permitted to enter duty-free. Hence, the question of introducing a protective tariff should be studied with a view to stimulating internal agricultural production.

Presumably too, there are many reasons why Sarawak has become more and more dependent on imported foodstuffs but two of which may be mentioned in particular, viz. those pepper boom days of 1950-1955

had so obscured the situation and energy of the planter that they have since neglected all else to the exclusion of pepper-planting, and the newly acquired consuming habit of relying on imported foodstuffs. Further, the dumping of cheap farm produce, obtained by slave-labour, on the free market by Mainland China, also creates the disastrous effect of demoralising local farmers to such an extent that they see no chance of affording any competition without any government aids.

Take the case of pig-breeding which used to be one of Sarawak farmers' most popular and profitable sidelines. Today, from Bangkok to Jakarta and Sibu, live pigs are being imported duty-free the whole year round. The same with fresh eggs and vegetables which are imported and often sold much cheaper than the locally produced ones. The same may be said of many other farm produce and frozen foods which are being imported in increasing quantities from the China Mainland.

The issue before us is, in spite of the fact that Sarawak is not yet in a position to produce all her essential or principal foods, should something not be done to stimulate or induce the production of other subsidiary foods, such as pigs, fresh eggs, vegetables, etc.?

As mentioned above, arguments might be advanced that, since imported foods come by much more cheaply than if they are produced locally, why discourage importation at all and to our own disadvantage? Such arguments may sound logical superficially if other factors are not considered, one of which is, does such importation work to our best economic and political interests in the long run?

Assuming the economic supposition that our ability to import depends much on our capacity to export which, in turn, depends on our ability to produce is correct, it appears that the smothering of these inter-related economic cycle lies in our ability to create productive employment and an increased wealth in the country. Large investments that would help in tapping the natural resources of the country would of course give employment to many, as in the case of the oilfields, mines, sawmills and the like. However, such do not seem to be working to the full yet.

Today, vast tracts of land are for cultivation and farms, though opened up, seem to be utilized more intensively as stocking them with more goats, pigs or poultry or planted with more orchards. In order that land be cultivated more intensively or extensively, farming must be made a paying proposition, which can only be achieved with improved agricultural methods. Having expert advice on the use of fertilisers and mechanical aids, the average farmer should be so placed that he is able to earn a reasonably decent living with or without a boom or a slump of any kind to either stimulate or demoralise him.

The stability of any society depends greatly on its ability to give adequate employment that will ensure an increase in the national income commensurate to a growing population. Unfortunately, not all countries can solve the problem of unemployment or employment by the Communist system of slave-labour which has not only enslaved people of the Communist regimes but also poses as a threat to free labour and, in the case of Sarawak, the farmers.

The introduction of a protective tariff as envisaged does not aim at the mere collection of more revenue. It should work to place the local farmers on a more advantageous footing in competition against the inflow of farm produce; more than that, it should encourage more young people to turn to the soil for a honourable and decent living. We cannot be blind to the fact that we are faced with a generation that takes the Cinema-scope, radio, motor car and other modern daddies not

so luxuries but necessities. There must be something in our economic and social setup that will provide these. Our young men must be made to realise that there lies wealth aplenty in the Great Earth and that, as moves in the development of Sarawak, most people had struck the jackpot in pepper and rubber in the past than all the salaries of the white-collar workers put together. Above all, there should be more farming representatives on the various committees and councils.

Much can be done by the Agriculture Department, the Co-operative Development Department, the Youth Club and other allied organisations to guide and aid those of our young men who plan to go into farming in earnest. First, suitable land must be found. Second, there must be capital and organisation. Third, approval and support must come from Government and the public. If we could make a new generation of educated farmers out of our young men, who not only will work with their hands but also with their brain and technical know-how, we would have built the foundation for a new age of agriculture in Sarawak. It should not be scoffed at as mere visionary when a new generation of farmers will till the soil with the aid of machinery, drive their produce to town and live just as well as anybody else in the country, if our leaders would tackle the problem with the right political approach and economic means at their disposal and plan ahead of time.

The problem of unemployment may not be considered as acute at this juncture. Whatever it is, it is questionable that any pressure should be exerted just so to force youth into farming. Our farmers must not be made to feel that they are social and intellectual failures. On the contrary, they must have pride and be able to appreciate the great future before them. No amount of land or natural resources could be opened up by a handful of Colombo Scholarship boys if they had to work with a community of disinclined, reluctant and half-hearted 15th century type of farmers. The days of the early pioneers are gone; on our hands are now a generation of Sarawakian youth whom we must educate to a higher level, provide with a higher standard of living and a better place under the sun.

K.Y.L.

In the Shadows of Heaven

(A Dayak boy from the Second Division, portblind from infancy, recently underwent an operation which restored the sight of one eye. On being asked what he thought of the world, now more clearly revealed to him, he said it was "not so beautiful".)

Did you see man as angels go.

Was Mount paradise?

Did Lapis then more nobly flow.

Did Lango touch the stars?

Were human faces more serene.

Did heaven's light shine on them?

And through your misty vision seen

Was Lingga New Jerusalem?

Musing Afloat

My grandfather had been an opium smoker. I discovered years ago much to my bearded discomfiture. But the old gentleman explained after his usual after-dinner story telling of the exploits of Sun, the Monkey-God on his pilgrimage to the Western heavens, and the heroes of the Three Kingdoms, that nearly every student of classics before the Revolution of 1911 in his part of Kwangtung Province was an opium addict. It was thought that it would be quite beyond the physical ability of the more serious student, without puffing the pipe, to be able to endure the grueling long hours (especially at night) of study and preparation required to attempt the Public Imperial Examinations. It was not uncommon for little boys of three to begin reciting passages from the classical books, and as they grew up to more serious studies in addition to hours devoted to essay writing and calligraphy. It was normal for the brighter boys to be ready for a short series of preliminary examinations by the time they were about twelve years of age.

During student days the hopeful young lads or men would be placed under the tutelage of some well known teacher according to the financial resources of the family. It was quite a common practice, according to grandfathers, for young students to gather at a party to discuss and debate their opinions on certain points arising from their studies after, of course, they had had their few pipes. Keen interest and the quality of the debate could be maintained for long hours, which would not likely happen in any party where the liveliness had to be borne up by alcoholic drink, as the latter method often rendered the participants either incapacitated to some varying degree, or else roughly had tempered. I should think that many a student not taking part in these discussions must have failed miserably in the public examinations.

However, as my grandfather put it, all this opium smoking was a gentlemanly and scholarly exercise, and there was nothing base or shameful about it. If a man, young or old was able through his own or his family's means to indulge in the preparation for the Imperial Public Examinations, then surely he should be able to afford a few puffs regularly to soothe his nerves, and bolster up his courage to persevere in spite of failures. One is inclined to think that if only the scholars, the intelligentsia, the elite, senior Manchese officials and the well-educated rich only should indulge in this grand pastime, then opium smoking would still retain that exclusiveness to the present day, besides bringing a not unenviable proportion of the national income. But alas, unscrupulous ricksha pullers, public fishermen, oil-sells, coolies and people of the inferior trades also took it up. This no doubt helped to popularise an otherwise respectable social achievement, but brought it down to the level of a national vice.

I should like to imagine what immense relief this opium smoking exercise would bring to the Finance Branch at Estimation time. Not only lapsed nerves in all concerned would become a thing of the past but all the members of the Finance Committee would feel assured that a good proportion of the revenue would be derived through the opium duty from that section of the public both able and willing to withstand this form of taxation.

I often wonder what the comely Chinese Middle school girl would think after an opium raid had taken place in her neighbourhood in Khai Joo Lane. Would she think that it was the wicked Government men who came along to persecute the poor opium addict, or would she think that it was high time some one put a stop to the foolishness of the poor man. She could

be seen helping her mother to cook in the rather confined kitchen-cum-back-porch of the shophouse during the school holidays, with perhaps half a dozen younger brothers and sisters waiting anxiously just behind the door. One such unfortunate man was glad of a blessing in disguise. He is a one arm rag and bone man. He had to go to the Hospital for a major operation, and for three weeks he was confined to his bed with no possibility of even withdrawing a lump of scrapings from the opium pipe used him of the habit, though he admitted unashamedly that he suffered untold torture in the process of shedding it. But some of us would have wished that all opium addicts could obtain a less painful cure.

Incidentally my grandfather decided to cure himself of his opium smoking habit when he was teaching in the classical style in the Kuei Ying Association at No. 32, Carpenter Street half a century ago. I am not sure whether he would be registered as a teacher midway between grade III and IIIb according to State Licensing standards, for he had certainly passed no recognised examinations, nor had he been to a teacher training centre, but had in his time prepared many successful candidates for the old public examinations. Grandfather discovered that his modest puffings conflicted with his avowed object of bringing his elder son to Sateauk, as Kuching was then known to him through his cousin, to have his son educated in English. Eventually grandfather sent his elder son, who accompanied him here, to St. Thomas's School, while he taught at No. 32, Carpenter Street, living in the premises. The St. Thomas's boarding fees were at a princely sum of \$1.50 per month in those days, and since then he found it difficult to maintain his home in his native village in China, and afford schooling in the mission school for his son, and also few pipes daily. Many friends advised him not to hazard curing himself of the habit, as he was well past forty at the time, but he was adamant and took a long course of Chinese medicinal herbs. At the early stages of the herbal treatment he had of course to continue smoking opium, but to cut down the dose gradually according to a time table, until in six months time he stopped smoking altogether. That he succeeded was a tribute to his excellent will-power and self-control, as well as the efficacy of Chinese medicine. His son, that is my father, an entry to St. Thomas's School was well past the present schooling age, having already devoted years of study to classical Chinese.

Grandfather returned to China later, but paid us a last visit in 1931. He died just before the last War at the age of 77, I often thought that had he never been an opium addict, he could have lived up to 90, for my grandfather died at the age of 92, even allowing for the greater life expectancy of women in general.

LO SUAN HIAN

The Peoples of Sarawak*

XIV and XV

SARAWAK CHINESE

by

RICHARD OUTRAM

The subject of early Chinese settlement in Sarawak is one which could easily fill a book. From relics which have lately been discovered by the Museum between Santubong and Cape Data, it is clear that there was direct contact between Sarawak and China before 1800 on to 1500 A.D.; but these Chinese indications in Sarawak end in the middle of the fifteenth century, although they continue for a further hundred years in Brunei. It would appear, therefore, that Chinese trading ventures to the local coast of Borneo were interrupted by the competition of the Portuguese, Spanish and Dutch towards the end of the sixteenth century and that for the next two hundred and fifty years there was little if any intercourse between China and Sarawak. The importance of these early Chinese traders, therefore, lies not in their being the forerunners of our present day Chinese, but in their influence on the natives with whom they intermarried and who owe to them not only a proportion of their blood but also much of their art.

In the south of Borneo, however, Chinese trading persisted throughout what may in Sarawak be termed the Dark Ages of 1500-1800 and by the middle of the sixteenth century there were many thousands of Chinese living in the regions of Sumat and Pontianak, and largely engaged in gold-mining. There were mostly Hakka and it was from them that the first modern Chinese migration to Sarawak originated.

At the time of the arrival of the first Rajah in Kuching, the number of Chinese residing in what is now Sarawak was negligible, since the country under the nominal rule of Brunei was in such turmoil that peaceful trade was virtually impossible. Only the Chinese can claim that a chamberlain of theirs was in Sarawak before the Rajah's arrival; Lau Chok with a few friends came direct from China to Simanggang by junk about the year 1830 and thence to Saiah, Kuching, where they planted vegetables and reared live-stock. He himself became the Rajah's steward and with his followers took an active part in fighting against the Hakka rebels in 1837. It was however, about this time (that is about 1840), that a number of Hakka moved overland from what was then Dutch Borneo to Upper Sarawak (Batu), where they settled to plant pepper and vegetables and to pan for gold. Very few, if any, of these penetrated the confines of Kuching. These Hakka were Ku-Yin and are said to have come to Sarawak in order to avoid arrest for their criminal behaviour in Dutch Borneo. The present Ku-Yin of Kuching must forgive such aspersions on their ancestry; but they may console themselves with the thought that every Australian has a similar story to tell! In that as it may, it is known for certain that tribal influence was powerful in their community during the sixteenth century and was, in fact, the cause of the Chinese insurrection of 1837. For at that time certain Hakka at Batu had been severely punished for their extortionate activities in connection with secret societies—the Rajah being determined to put a stop to such abuses. In their resentment, the Chinese attempted to murder the Rajah and his officers with the intention of setting up their own leader as Rajah. The insurrection, although

at first partially successful, was quelled with Dutch assistance and the Chinese retreated in disorder to Batu where rehabilitation was duly resumed out to the leaders. (Visitors to Batu will, no doubt, be interested to know the original Tampuan, is still standing at Batu Luma, not far behind the government offices).

To continue the story of Hakka migration to Sarawak, a picturesque tale is told of the second Rajah. One day in 1860 while Sir Charles, accompanied by the Kapitan China, was taking his morning ride along Rock Road, he saw a Chinese woman wearing traditional head-dress working on a farm. When he first saw her she was just starting to break the ground, but a short while later, on his return, to Sir Charles' surprise she had already completed several rows of vegetable beds. The Rajah was so impressed with her industry that he inquired what race she was and found that she was a Sin-Ona Hakka. He thought to himself that if a Sin-Ona woman could do that much work in such a short time, a Sin-Ona man was just the type of immigrant required to develop the soils of Sarawak. Little did he know that among the Sin-Ona it is more often than not the women who work in the field and the men who look after the home. At all events, he thereupon made arrangements with a certain Sin-Ona Hakka named Kong Kai En to introduce a number of planters to the suburbs of Kuching and, as a result, in the same year some 200 Sin-Ona families came to Sarawak to pioneer planters.

The Hakka have always been primarily gold-miners and agriculturists and have been largely confined to the First and Second Divisions although there are now also settlements at Batu and Fium in the Mid District of the Fourth Division. Their community increased considerably during the twenties and early thirties of this century when migration of relatives from China was not discouraged. They come from the northern part of Kwangtung province, inland from Swatow and north of Canton.

Soon after the first Rajah's arrival in Kuching the pioneer of the Hakka community made his way here from Singapore. Ong Hwe Hui came over on hearing of the settled state of Sarawak to open up trade with Kuching, and it was through him that the successful and prosperous community of Hakka now spread throughout Sarawak, originated and multiplied. It is interesting to note that, on arrival in Sarawak and having left his first wife, a Malacca Chinese, in Singapore, and finding no suitable spouse of his own community in Kuching, he took himself a Hakka wife, a most unusual departure for a Chinese at that time. Ong Hwe Hui and his Hakka followers, some of whom came from Singapore and others from Amoy, confined their activities almost exclusively to commerce and, indeed, the Hakka community ever since have been town-folk rather than agriculturists.

The first of the Chao-An pioneers to arrive in Sarawak was Chan Khe and it is believed that he came here some time in the year 1850 or 1851. Being the fourth son of his family he was poor but, at the same time, ambitious and having heard tales of the wealth of Malaya and of the fortunes made there, he signed on as crew of a small sailing-boat carrying salt from China to Sarawak. On his arrival in Sarawak he went to Batu to join a distant kinsman of the same surname but of Hakka dialect and there he was employed as a labourer, but he also planted sugarcane on his own. One day as he was digging in his garden, he found traces of gold and from the results of this discovery he opened a small shop selling tobacco and sundry goods. Curiously enough his good fortune in the discovery of gold became to some extent a fetish among the Batu Hakka; so much so, that in many cases whenever a Hakka was contemplating opening up gold working in the area, he would promise the gods that if and when he discovered gold he would give a proportion

*This series of talks, originally broadcast over Radio Sarawak, is now reprinted by courtesy of the Director of Broadcasting. For a general introduction to, and explanation of, the series by their author, Mr. Tom Harrison, Government Ethnologist and Curator of the Sarawak Museum, see Sarawak Gazette No. 1294.

of it to Chan Kho. In this way, Chan Kho, without great difficulty, became a wealthy man; and many of his successors have often wished that they could acquire such a reputation for good fortune as was his.

The first Teochew to try his fortune in Sarawak was Lee Kian Hant who arrived here during the forties, and he obtained the Rajah's permission to bring in a number of Teochew agriculturalists from China to open up gambier plantations along what is now the Pontian Road and near Batu Kintang and Bako. He financed them in the first place and they in time repaid his loan, no doubt with interest, and together with his commercial undertakings in connection with his agricultural followers, he made a small fortune. The Teochews come from Swatow and the country around; in Sarawak they have divided their interests between planting and commerce. These three early pioneers, the Hokkies Ong Ewe Hui, the Chao-Ana, Chan Kho and the Teochew Lee Kian Hant became a sort of triumvirate to whom the Rajah looked to control his overseas Chinese. The other communities which came here later in and around Kuching, such as the Hylans, Lai-Chows and others arrived later, mainly by the personal introduction of friends, from Singapore or from China.

The spread of Chinese commerce from Kuching to the smaller towns was, in the first place, almost entirely due to Hokkies and Teochew enterprise; then in Malak, Mirinda, Lunan, Simunjan and the towns of the Second Division, business has always remained principally in the hands of these two communities.

The Rejang River, however, owes nothing to Kuching. It must have been in the 1870's that Hokkies merchants from Singapore first penetrated the Rejang. At that time, the port to which they sailed was not Sibu, Serai or Bonting, but Kowvit, and as the present Kapitan China of Sibu, Mr. Tan Chong Lok, will tell you, when he first came over to Sarawak with his aunt from Singapore in 1892 at the age of fifteen, the only place in the Rejang of which he had heard was Kowvit. At that time trade was largely on a barter system, a trader from Singapore bringing over cloth, jars, salt and other necessities of life and, in exchange, returning with rotan, the hides of wild cattle, native porcupine, camphor, rhinoceros horns, monkey gall-stones for Chinese medicines and other jungle produce.

Hokkie enterprise in the Rejang was confined to trade. Small shops were opened up as buying and selling agents for their principals in Singapore, but no land development was contemplated. It was not until the year 1900 that there was any real move to open up the Rejang River with the help of the Chinese. In that year one Wong Nai Siong came from Singapore via Kuching and visited Sibu, and as a result of his visit, he obtained permission from the second Rajah to bring in 1,000 Foochow farmers. During 1901 and 1902, therefore, over 1,000 Foochows with their families arrived in the Rejang River—the first two batches via Singapore and the third batch direct from Foochow to the Rejang. Their transport was financed by a Government loan and the Government undertook to land to each immigrant the sum of 16 per month for six months which, believe it or not, was at that time sufficient for their livelihood. At first these Foochows planted vegetables and padi and in some cases pepper; and it was not until 1906 that, following the example of Malaya, they started planting rubber. They at first settled in the Sungai Mowah area close to Sibu, but very shortly spread downriver to Bukit Lian and up-river towards Durian; and it is from these that the Foochow community in the Third Division has now increased to a population of approximately 50,000. Later, in the years 1925 and 1928, Foochow communities emanating from the Rejang were established at Sibuan above Mirinda and at Poyat in the Baram.

The present timber producers in the Rejang river may not all be aware that the timber industry in Sarawak dates back to the 1880's, when the Cantonese from Hong Kong were engaged in the export of logs and more besides from Rejang to Hong Kong. The grandfather of the present Cantonese Kapitan China of Bonting did, in fact, work timber in those days and later opened a business in Bonting in 1894. However, towards the end of the century, the Cantonese eventually turned their timber interests in favour of trade and agriculture, opening shops at Bonting and later at Serian, and also planting pepper and coffee in the vicinity.

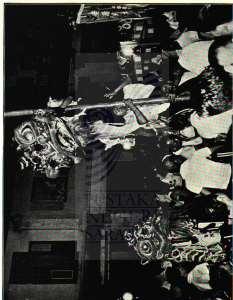
Chinese immigration continued on and off until the Second World War, being restricted by individual permit to the relatives and dependents of those who were already established in the country. And thus, by 1947, the total Chinese population of Sarawak had increased to some 147,000 out of an overall population of 346,000. Since that date, despite restrictions on immigration, the Registrar of Births and Deaths reports that the Chinese population has increased by over 12 per cent or at the rate of about 2½ per cent per annum. At the end of 1954 it was estimated that the Chinese comprised 29 per cent of the total population, as against 26.5 per cent in 1947. The only larger racial group in the country (the Iban) decreased from 34.8 per cent to 32.1 per cent over the same years. It is not unlikely therefore that the Chinese will very shortly (if they do not already) comprise the largest single racial group in Sarawak. With their added domination of commerce, the importance of this group in the future development, both political and economic, of the country can hardly be overestimated. This short account of Chinese immigration into Sarawak emphasises the personal aspect throughout; whether the 'Sin-Khek' migration was by group as in the case of the Foochows or by individual sponsorship as in later years, the basis of selection was always that of family or clan relationship. The immigrant or 'Sin-Khek', as he was called, invariably arrived in Sarawak without a penny to his name. He was therefore entirely reliant on his 'guardian' with whom he would be lodged and for whom he would work. He might or might not be paid for his work, but if he were, his wages might well be deducted at source in repayment of the advance made in respect of his passage expenses from China to Sarawak. His guardian would initiate him into the mysteries of life in the tropics and gradually he would settle down. After a time he might take up a piece of land of his own in the vicinity, but in order to do so he would normally become indebted to his local shopkeeper who would probably be of the same surname and certainly of the same dialect group.

Similarly if his 'guardian' were a town-dweller the 'Sin-Khek' would in the first place work as his cook or apprentice and later, may be, branch out into business on his own, but the clan influence would persist. He would be economically dependent on his personal guardian and through him on debts on the head of the clan. In his occupation, due to his apprenticeship, he would also follow the example for his guardian and eventually open a similar kind of shop or follow a similar occupation. The effect of this clan influence is still noticeable, both geographically and occupationally, and is more pronounced among the poorer classes than among the wealthy. To take an example the First Division of Sarawak, the Sin-Ona Hokkie predecessors in the Batu Kawa, Simunjan and south to tensile miles, Simanggang Road areas, while the Hopps Hokkies are grouped at Bau and along the Simanggang Road from twentieth mile to Serian. Lunan and Bako farmers are largely in the hands of Teochew traders, while at Serian business has always been the virtual monopoly of the Hokkians and at Simunjan of the Cantonese.



An Young Man, G. J. J. J.

In the Temple



At Pong May Goh, 4 B.P.S.

Dragon Dance

Dr. Thien Ja Kang, in his treatise on the Chinese of Sarawak, has dealt very fully indeed with this aspect of Chinese society and has even proved the preponderance of family, let alone clan, influence in certain areas. It is still, for instance, comparatively rare for any except the biggest businessmen to employ in their shops persons who, if not actually related, are not at least of the same dialect group. Occupationally, this specialisation is therefore most noticeable. For instance, owing to the early goldminers and clock-makers being Cantonese, so the gold and silversmiths' trade and the clock-makers' profession have remained almost entirely in the hands of the Cantonese ever since; it is true that some such businesses may indeed be owned by wealthy Hokkien or Teochew, but you will still find that the craftsmen are normally Cantonese. Similarly you will find that nearly all the tinminers in Kuching and Miri are Hokien, while cabinet-making is almost exclusively in the hands of the southern Mandarin. Throughout Sarawak the Hongkong provide 90 per cent of our Chinese fishermen, while they also claim a virtual monopoly of the bicycle, bus and taxi businesses. The charcoal industry is practically closed to any except the Leuchers, while the Kuching Wharf Labourers are more than half Chao-Ans, who mostly reside in one particular area at Sibu. Big business, banking, import and export were started by the Hokkien, and although the Teochew and (more recently) the Foochow have entered into competition, the Hokkien still dominate this aspect of Sarawak's economy.

In Kuching the head of each main community association was usually the Kapitan China, with the late Mr. Ong Tiang Swee as Kapitan China General over all, in all other business the Kapitan was elected to represent the local Chinese in Government and to inform the Chinese of the new laws and regulations which Government from time to time brought it to notice. The Kapitan was the recognised authority on Chinese custom and would be called upon to do so as an assessor or adviser in court for cases involving custom. He would also advise Government on Chinese opinion within the district and would no doubt be a powerful influence in persuading the Chinese community under his control of the good sense of the laws, to which they were subject.

The British Rajah maintained as one of their principles in the government of the people of Sarawak that customs, whether Chinese, Dayak, Malay or that of any other race, should be paid the fullest respect; and thus, in 1912 the second Rajah, with considerable foresight, set up a Chinese Court composed of the seven leading Chinese in Kuching. They acted as Justices of the Peace and to them were referred by the Resident all civil cases involving exclusively Chinese litigants and all matters of Chinese probate, marriage and divorce. The court was housed in what is now the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and many readers may not have noticed the symbolic emblem of justice, a pair of scales, which ornaments the two main doors of the building. Here the Chinese Court under the presidency of the late Mr. Ong Tiang Swee, assisted by six magistrates, sat from 1912 until 1921 when Mr. Ong Tiang Swee, having completed three terms of office, found the burden too much for him and, for lack of a willing successor as president, the court was dissolved and its duties shared by the Protector of Chinese and the Civil Courts. It is interesting to remember, however, that for many years after that, indeed, until Sarawak became involved in the second World War in 1941, the Rajah still approved the firing of a seven-gun salute to herald the advent of Chinese New Year—the seven guns being in recognition of the voluntary, unpaid service of the seven members of the court, against whose decision there was no appeal.

Gradually the Kapitan China system was extended to the rural areas of the Third Division, where headmen and sub-headmen were appointed to act as the links between Government and the Chinese. These headmen and sub-headmen were only appointed after their election under Government supervision by the heads of households within their respective areas. Subsequently, the headmen system has spread to the other Divisions, the headmen being the representatives of a certain local area composed normally of farmers of the same dialect group, whereas the Kapitan China of ordinary business is the representative of all dialect groups within the better area. Thus, through Kapitans the Headmen and through Chinese Advisory Boards, the Government, both prior to and since 1946, has administered the Overseas Chinese in this country—and through them Chinese custom has been preserved.

This has been emphasised in legislation by the enactment many years ago of a Chinese Marriage Ordinance and by the acceptance in the courts of the effect of Chinese custom in matters of probate and divorce. But recently the question has arisen as to what it is, in fact, Chinese custom. All customs, especially marriage customs, are liable to change and vary widely between different clans; nowadays it would appear that the Chinese themselves, or many of them, are not quite certain what they mean by Chinese custom. The Chinese Marriage Ordinance requires registration of a marriage performed according to unopposed Chinese custom; but is this to be the custom followed by the Chinese when they first came to Sarawak or is it to be the customary law of present-day China; or is it merely to be whatever each individual himself decides to be a Chinese custom? In the past the customary requirements of a Chinese marriage were the offer of "Pien-chi" (dowry) or the exchange of "Pien-li" (marriage gift), obedience before the photographs or letters of the ancestors, exchange of a ring and the services of an intermediary. The bride might be a primary wife or a secondary wife and there is provision in the Chinese Marriage Certificate for differentiation between these two conditions; in modern times however, less regard is being paid to these requirements and polygamous marriages are becoming a thing of the past.

The modern Chinese girl is not content to receive the status of a secondary wife. This is in part due to education and in part due to the economic leveling up of the community. Many may imagine that the abolition of secondary marriages can be nothing but beneficial to the female sex, but this is not always so, for, in the case of a girl coming from a poor family, it is not unlikely that she might not be able to find a suitable husband, in which case she would have the option of acquiring an acknowledged status as a secondary wife or of being 'kept' with no position at all. There is, therefore, still some opposition, not only from the male sex but also from the female, to the legal abolition of polygamy. This opposition, however, is rapidly disappearing.

Thus with adoption also. Thirty years ago, Chinese adoptions were far more frequent than they are today. The necessity to ensure the continuance of the line, even though no natural issue was forthcoming, frequently necessitated the adoption of an heir; and, indeed, the importance of ancestor worship and the insistence on continuity of the family will play a large part in the frequent adoptions which occur. Such adoptions are normally of close relatives such as a nephew or near cousin. However, Confucius is gradually losing his sway and the Chinese of Sarawak are in a state of flux as regards these customs. The older generation clings to the ways of its grandfathers, while the younger generation, as in other parts of the world, is tending to discard what are so often regarded as superstitions.

This weakening of clan influence and solidarity is naturally more apparent in the urban than in the country areas: whereas, before, clubs and associations were based on clan relationships, now they are becoming more and more associations of individuals having a similarity of occupation or taste. Some, in fact, are little more than Mahjong clubs, on the other hand, still fulfil a most useful function in providing a social background for their members and as charitable organisations for the poorer members of the community. This weakness in clan influence is in part economic and in part due to education. There is now less interdependence and less dependence than formerly.

The effect of education on the abolition of clan separation can hardly be over-emphasised. The early Chinese immigrants, most of whom had only received very limited education, if any at all, were determined that their children should enjoy the benefits which they had been denied; and it has always been a matter for admiration that even the poorest Chinese farmer or rubber tapper would deny himself all but the bare necessities of life in order to contribute towards his children's education.

The Chinese settled in Sarawak as planters or traders; their object was to make money and, provided they were left in peace to pursue their agricultural or commercial pursuits, they were content to take little or no part in the public life of the country. Their attitude towards the other races of Sarawak was an attitude of benevolent tolerance. They realised that they were to a large extent *personae non gratae* with the natives, but they also knew that they depended on the goodwill of the Dayaks and Malays and others for their means of land and for their trade. Their attitude is now changing and the change has been largely inspired by the Government's offer to them of citizenship and of a partnership in the future of the country.

I have already emphasized the numerical and economic importance of the Chinese in Sarawak and it is only right that they should be offered and should accept a share in the responsibility for the future of this country of their adoption. In Local Government the Chinese are playing their part in conjunction with the other races. In some areas such as Kuching, where they predominate, it is only natural and right that their influence should also be paramount. In other areas, such as Kapit, where they are a minority, they have wisely accepted their position and are working in partnership with the Dayaks for the good of the district. There is, however, unfortunately a lamentable tendency on the part of the purely Chinese-educated Chinese to cut themselves off from participation in local affairs.

The young Chinese, educated in Chinese schools, appear to have a quite uncorrupted love of losing their identity by acknowledging the fact that Sarawak is, in fact, their home. They often appear unable to realise that they can retain their cultural and linguistic identity as Chinese while still participating with the other races through the medium of some common language in the administration of the country. They fear that, by learning a second language in their schools, they will sacrifice their knowledge of their own language despite the fact that there are thousands of very ancient Chinese scholars who have also made it their business to learn the languages and to appreciate the outlook of other races. Nobody wants the Chinese, any more than the Iban or the Malays, to sacrifice one iota of their culture or of their language. But it is essential that if the Chinese are to take their place in the future of Sarawak, they must learn to be able to speak with the other races of the country and to appreciate other people's points of view. Many are doing so, and it is to these that we look for a kind in the future of the Government of the country.

A Matter of Names

We have always thought that the romanized form of Chinese names poses a great many problems for non-Chinese, especially Europeans who have not only to grapple with the limited pronunciation but also to remember the names which mean nothing to them. Another form is to employ the Western form of only giving the initials plus a surname of the family name, e.g. A. B. Chan. This form is simple but excites too much imagination and speculation among the Chinese speaking populace, for the initials might stand for anything varying from "Lunatic Waver" to "Born in Sarawak" as the Chinese characters would signify. Yet another form is to put the surname last as is the Western custom which the Japanese have adopted with considerable success and uniformity, but which the Chinese find it difficult to follow, a good example being the well known cinema magazine Ron Ron Shaw and if my grandfather who gave me my name had permitted me, I would be inclined to write my initials as S. H. to stand for "Shaw Hee" in contrast distinction to the famous multi-millionaire's, not because I would be never able to make even a little 'pile', but because that is what I inextricably will do! In my brief visits to Singapore I was often introduced to many Mr. Lins or Mr. Chans without the all-important proper names. Apparently people over there think that it is just the polite thing to do, not forgetting that among the 600,000,000 Chinese in the world there are only about 200 family names to go round! As at any time there would be about 3 million Lins in the world, a proper name would help tremendously in identifying the individual.

The fact that Chinese women retain their family name after marriage also causes some confusion at times. Once a newly arrived Government officer was puzzled which was the correct form of address for, maiden Alice Ang Lian Choo, should it be Alice Choo or A. A. L. Choo or Alice Ang and on being told that she should be called Madam Choo or better known as Mrs. Chew Choy Chin, he nearly fainted.

When filling in the form of application for a British Passport a married woman has to state her maiden name, with her family name or surname underlined and also her husband's name with his family name, and the precise document is made out in the name of the woman plus her husband's family name in good old Western style, but with the family name first. The resulting name is a true marriage of East and Western forms, thus Ang Chai Bob (I) married to Oh Tiah Poh, the former becomes known as Mrs. Oh Chai Bob on her British Passport. I thought this form rather amusing and when my wife came back with her naming document stating her name as Mrs. Lo Phek Luan, I was overjoyed as I told her that with the completion of one application form she has lost her family name. Quite recently an invitation card was addressed to Mr. & Mrs. Lo Phek Luan. The other boy was hard put to and he asked in his inimitable Kampong No. 3 Malay dialect *apenas mahu na', eh?* of the office staff, and fortunately I overheard his remark and retrieved the envelope before it had much chance to wander farther. In my last prose I wrote to the hostess explaining briefly why Mrs. Lo Phek Luan would be pleased to be present with her husband not named Phek Luan! And now my wife calls me Mr. Phek Luan with glee.

Lo Suan Hoon

Kuching Letter

One of the most fragrant memories of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Kuching will be the display of the municipal arms on the lamp-posts of the main streets. They were reproduced with admirable taste and provided just that touch of maintained colour that the Kuching streets need. I have always deplored the fact that Kuching should bear a town-arm on the tiles, but many eminent families have borne devices of an embarrassing character, for instance the lion of the Lanes or the horse-flies of the Barstons. However, the presentation of the Kuching arms, complete with crest and motto, was admirable and steps should now be taken to make these permanent by having them reproduced in enamel. The cost of this could easily be met by inviting persons of note or affluence to assist the charges of a single lamp-post, to this could be added a brass plate inscribed in Chinese, Latin, or even English, "Fine for the coat of . . .". I have no doubt that the desire for commemoration would ensure that every lamp-post in Kuching was provided, but if any were slow to contribute, the Municipality could itself meet the charges and attach a plate saying "Fine for the coat of . . . who should have presented these arms but did not." The response would be immediate.

The abolition of annual leave as a measure of economy is extremely ill-advised. The fact that a man has been absent is ground for an amercement rather than his abolition. The purpose of leave is to give an officer a season of refreshment whereby to recruit his powers both physical and intellectual, so that he returns in better case to discharge his duties than heretofore. The officer who has spent his time in the Uthi, or at the Selatung Festival, or in studying the administration of Albania, returns to Sarawak a better man, and the cost of his air transport is trifling when compared with the advantage accruing to the country of having an officer of enlarged views and discrimination at work.

Unfortunately it cannot be denied that annual leave, so far from being a season of enlargement, has all too often been an occasion for the grossest dissipation. To take hypothetical cases: an officer flies from Kuching to London, repairs forthwith to a cottage in the Cotswolds, where he spends two months serving tooth for his mother-in-law. He returns by air to Kuching broken in spirit, damaged in mind, and debilitated in body; it is two months before he can discharge the simplest duties of his office. Again, an officer goes on leave and spends the entire time inournemouth playing whist with a random cast of whom he has no expectations. He returns to Kuching and is committed to the alienist. It is such flagrant abuses as these that have brought annual leave into disrepute, and led it upon to attack on financial grounds.

It is obvious that the merely lay net in abolishing annual leave, but in imposing much stricter conditions to govern it. In the first place the time should be reduced from two months to one, which is quite long enough for anybody. Secondly, it should be clearly laid down that at no time during leave may the officer go back in the United Kingdom, Australia or New Zealand. Breach of this provision should entail the repayment of the air passage in full. Thirdly, upon return to Sarawak the officer should be called upon to render a brief account of the manner that he has studied during his leave. The enforcement of such provisions would ensure that leave was so employed as to enlarge the officer and profit the administration. Under such circumstances the expense involved could be regarded as an investment rather than a dissipation of revenue.

An economy which is long over-due lies in the curtailment of marriage allowances. The full circle has now been completed and it is generally admitted that the Second Rajah was right: an ingenious and dedicated expatriate civil service can only be formed of bachelors. Neglect of this principle during the intervening years has brought untold evils upon the country, indeed most of the administrative misfortunes can be attributed to officers listening to the opinions of their wives, instead of exercising their judgment. Although it is generally agreed that the service should consist of bachelors, it is by no means easy to see where they can be recruited. In these latter days virtue is devalued, and as the world draws rapidly to its end, such men become rare. I should suggest a compromise to meet the conditions of the times. Let a marriage allowance in respect of one wife be paid to all officers who are married to two or more. This would ensure such a violent bickering amongst the wives that no single one would be able to achieve an ascendancy over the husband, who would thus be unharmed by family pressure. Further, if there were provision for a paid leave passage for only one wife, the authority which this choice would confer should enable the officer to maintain a rigorous discipline in his household, which would render him immune to the violence of domestic coercion. Such a measure would effect large savings to the Treasury and would lead to a higher standard of efficiency in the service.

The growth of juvenile crime is reaching such appalling proportions that some contend that in twenty years time the law-abiding will be a small minority in the community. The basic cause of this rapid deterioration is undoubtedly education. Although the etymology of the word *cinema* drawing out, the actual process consists of examining it. The action if left to the schoolmaster would come to little harm; unfortunately under the schoolmaster has a rival in the film magazine, and in competition for the scholar's allegiance the film magazine always wins. For the schoolmaster labours to teach the rule of three, whereas the film magazine teaches robbery, murder, rape and fornication, all of which are more exhilarating than academic arithmetics. Further the motion studies arithmetic in the heat of the day, so that he quickly forgets what he has learned, but he studies murder in the cinema at night, and then goes home to sleep on it.

Today a whole generation is being bred to crime. Time was when a book of verse was an acceptable present for a promising youth; today only a book or bookie-duster will satisfy him. The entire toy-making industry has turned on arms race, wherein manufacturers vie with one another in producing weapons suitable for all ages. The atmosphere of crime and violence is all-pervasive and affects even the youngest. It is no uncommon sight to come upon a working holiday in one hand the material breast and in the other a dagger or pistol. And all these evils stem from the cinema.

At this, the film magazine will throw up their hands in protest, and claim that they portray crime and violence with reluctance, and then only for the purpose of showing virtue ultimately triumphant. True, in the last ten minutes the hero repents and returns to mother, with the Hollywood choir of angels singing off, but in the amazing orb the ten minutes of repentance are but a boring epilogue to two hours of glorious crime, where the hero has been shooting up or knocking down all and sundry. The impression that remains is of the two hours not the ten minutes. The film magazine will argue, however, that it is no fault of his if the motion takes under a high moral theme.

Another argument now much laboured is that the cinema greatly promotes religion. Have not things been revealed to the directors in Hollywood which were

hid from the prophets and evangelists of old? Nonetheless, it may be doubted whether the portrayal of the misery of the youthful Moses and the love affairs of Mary Magdalene are really the massive contributions to religious belief that the film magnates would parade on.

If we are not to be murdered in our beds during the next few years it is time that the film magnate was ousted and the schoolmaster restored to control. Let the cinemas be closed and their buildings converted for use as schools, so that in their youth is exercised in letters, rather than subjected to vice.

ROBERT NICHOLL.

The Wild Geese

One of the pleasing features of Sarawak life is the tendency to form associations of a national, regional or cultural character. In most towns are to be found persons migrating from this village or that in Kwangtung, who combine together for the purpose of emulating a temple or a gaming house. The announcement that on March 17th members of the Irish community had met together and decided to form a St. Patrick's Association was therefore in conformity with the accepted pattern. Certain rumblings had preceded partition, and the presentation of a St. Patrick's Plate at the races, which had been subscribed to by diverse Irishmen of prominence, was seen by many as an index that something was afoot.

The Association under the presidency of Dr. R. Nelson is now seeking registration. Its aims are unimpeachable, its purposes lofty, its objects large. The milkyway influence of Sarawak is shown in the forbearance which rules that neither Easter Monday nor 12th July shall be celebrated. Thus, in the week of the prospectus "The waters of the Shannon and the Boyne shall be confounded together, and lose their identity in good whisky."

It is understood that the first operation of this body will be to present a challenge trophy for Rugby to the Kuching schools. In terms of blood, sweat, toil and tears this will surely surpass anything hitherto attempted by such associations in Sarawak, and on this count alone we would offer our felicitations to the St. Patrick's Association of Sarawak.

R.N.

Letters to the Editor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
KUCHING,
SARAWAK.
17th March, 1939

The Editor,
Sarawak Gazette,
Kuching.

DEAR SIR,

I am trying to collect material for an article on the history of the Astoria and so far have found few references in published works either to the building of the present house or to previous Government houses on or near the site of the present house.

I would be grateful if you would publish this letter as an appeal for sight of any articles, letters, drawings or plans relating to the Astoria or its forerunners.

Yours faithfully,

H. A. YOUNG,
Private Secretary to H.E.
the Officer Administering
the Government

The Editor,
Sarawak Gazette,
Kuching.

Sir,

In his article "To Wake a Lexicographer" in Volume VIII No. 11, of the *Siamkut Magazine Journal* (June 1938), Dr. J. D. Freeman criticises Mr. N. C. Scott's *A Dictionary of Jaw Dayak*. Among other criticisms he complains (page 413) that Mr. Scott has omitted the common word *maahli*—to go upriver, as have Howell and Bailey. The word should of course be looked up under its root form of *paahli*. Similarly, *nyehok*, *nyehok*, *nyehok*, and *nyehok* may be found under *Arak*, *Arak*, *Arak*, and *Arak*.

Again, (page 419), he remarks the omission of the root *maahli* from Scott, though it is included in Howell and Bailey. Scott's spelling, explained on page 4 of the Dictionary, makes the word *maahli*, which can be found. The spelling *maahli* is impossible in Scott's Scheme. For much the same reason, *laahli* (of whose omission Freeman complains on page 415) can be found as *Kah-Li* in Scott.

While on the subject of these Dictionaries, may we make a plea for a new publication of Howell and Bailey? If nobody else is prepared to undertake this, might the Government Printing Office be asked to when they have the time?

Yours Sincerely,

G. BRUGEMAN
H. R. HARLOW

Excerpts from Reports of Administrative Officers for the Second Half-year of 1938

FIFTH DIVISION

Resident: Mr. H. P. K. JACKS

The Fifth Division progresses as before, steadily and quietly. The year saw a number of new buildings completed. Trade continues to be quiet due to the low price of rubber, but this improved towards the end of the year.

Local Government

The usual two meetings of the Divisional Advisory Council were held during the year. Both meetings were successful in that concussions were taking on increasing part in debate.

Mr. H. Bechler, Town Clerk of Hongay, visited Limbang in February. He was accompanied by Mr. R. F. S. Davies of the British Council, under the auspices of which the tour of Sarawak was made.

Mr. Bodale addressed a meeting of members from both Limbang and Lawas District Councils on the subject of local government.

Lawas District Council, though committed to a big Education programme with the aid of Government grants and loans, as well as its own Education Cess, is restricted by finance. The Limbang District Council has fortunately a fair surplus from past years, and was able to purchase \$12,000 worth of Government debentures.

A new Reading Room was constructed near the house on the Limbang water front area.

Politics and Migration

Efforts are not towards Brunei with its generous social welfare programme. As it is, many children living on the Sarawak side of the border go to Brunei schools. With lower customs duties, goods such as cigarettes and cloth are cheaper in Brunei State shops, and a fair amount of petty smuggling occurs. This has been closely investigated by Customs Officers, but due to long and easily crossed borders, it is impossible to prevent.

"Closer Association of the Borneo Territories" was given wide publicity throughout the Division. Local opinion was generally in favour, and the hope was expressed that the immigration regulations in and out of Brunei State would be lifted or considerably ameliorated. There is much heart-burn over this matter, as the bulk of Fifth Division visitors to Brunei mean to have a day's shopping. There are of course many illegal players of entry, but there is the attendant risk of being apprehended.

The numerous strikes Brunei has made over the last five years are most impressive. Although a great many Fifth Division people sought, and obtained work in both Brunei Town and the Oilfields, few have decided to benefit from all the amenities and make Brunei their permanent home.

The Limbang area has more diverse tribes than most. Except for the occasional inter-tribal feud disputes they live very peacefully together.

On the subject of migration it must be recorded that the hoped-for influx of good Fuzhou Chinese stock did not occur except in a small trickle. There were signs at the close of the year that Fuzhou migrants were showing interest in the Lawas district, while an application for 1,000 acres in the Limbang river from some Kluas was also received.

There were no organised migrations of them into the division in 1958. There were, however, a number of Dayak Itampay (wanderers) who had come over from the Oilfields, and were working mainly in the timber industry in the Limbang area. A few of these have married and settled in this area.

Forestry

More large areas have been, and are to be declared Protected Forests, this time in the headwaters of the Limbang river.

Timber output from sawmills in the division was down on the previous year owing to Hong Kong sources not purchasing any round logs.

Agriculture

The harvest of 1957/58 was poor by past standards. Some of the Murut houses, normally used to large surplus harvests, were applying for padi loans within a few months. Drought was given as the main reason for the poor yields. This year's harvest should be a good one. Damage from pests appears to be less, and it is hoped that drought, unusual during the winter or lesser months, will not recur.

It is unfortunate that the work of upriver padi purchase centres is to cease as this will have its effect on acreage planted. In the past, considerable quantities of padi were purchased by Government, and the economy of certain areas was largely dependent on this.

A Fifth Division Coconut Advisory Committee was formed at the end of the year.

The Rubber Planting Scheme Divisional Committee met during the course of the year from time to time.

The fencing of buffalo grazing areas was discussed in the Divisional Advisory Council. Undoubtedly many buffaloes are lost through death due to sickness, wounds, or theft. The Agricultural Department claims that the mortality rate at birth is grossly high. If culling buffaloes could be traded this would decrease considerably. At present buffalo owners make little or no attempt to fence or prepare grazing grounds for these valuable beasts, with the result they wander far afield in search of grazing, and are often not seen by their owners for months.

A lot more could be done in the realm of animal husbandry and market gardening. A ready market exists in Brunei. It is hoped to interest new Chinese migrants in this as propaganda amongst existing local and Chinese garden owners has produced little result.

Public Works

1958 saw the completion of a number of new buildings and quarters, and the dismantling of the old, some of which had stood for a great many years.

Among the new buildings were the Government Offices at Sander, which were declared open by the late Chief Secretary.

A substantial godown and customs office were completed early in the year at Limbang. It was a relief to dismantle the old building which had long been an eyesore. The same may be said for the old Police Station at Limbang which has now been replaced by a fine new building with adjacent bailiwick barracks.

The old Court House had been condemned as unsafe and dismantled long before the new Court House was completed. The latter is of course a vast improvement on the old. Finally, with the completion of the dispensary hospital, the Limbang water front has taken on a quite new look.

Water supply in Lawas was improved with a number of standpipes.

Health and Medical

There were no epidemics throughout the year, though numerous people were admitted to Brunei hospital to deal specifically with this disease, and the campaign was stepped up.

The Division was sprayed by the W.H.O. anti-malarial parties. There is still a hospital for the disease to return though Murut visitors to Lawas from Indonesia, where such spraying has not been carried out.

The State Medical Officer, Brunei, made his usual monthly visits to Limbang, but he was unable to visit Lawas and Sander. Fortunately Lawas has the services of Dr. Loo, and Sister Devonish of the Borneo Evangelical Mission who visit the dispensary weekly.

News that a travelling doctor was to be posted to the Fourth and Fifth Divisions was well received, but a letter appeared in the local press claiming that he should be posted to the Fifth Division in a static capacity. This doctor made his first run towards the end of the year. He appears to consider that the existing travelling dispensaries are running quite satisfactorily. His supervision of upriver dispensers is, however, the most important factor.

The Limbang painted by was not so common as in past years. There is no reason to account for this, and the Medical Department are still baffled by the problem of dealing with this pest. The fly is said to resemble closely the African fly which carries sleeping sickness. Fortunately this malady is not known in Sarawak.

Communications

No improvement in air communications between Limbang and Lawas, and Lawas and Brunei can be recorded. The only vessel is the Lawas Government launch which runs weekly in the mail run, and has limited passenger capacity. Most of the trade from Fifth Division ports is routed via Labuan to Singapore and in reverse. Some local launch owners have considered a Brunei bus service, but feel that there would be insufficient freight to make it worth while.

Launch services between Limbang and Brunei remain satisfactory. To offset the passenger difficulty mentioned in the first paragraph, I am able to report that quite a satisfactory airstrip has been completed at Lawas, and a flight schedule had started at the end of the year. This consisted of a plane from Labuan via Brunei and back to Labuan on one day, and the reverse route three days later. Though it will take awhile before Lawas becomes air-minded, bookings even now are considered satisfactory. There would greatly improve if services could be extended to the upper airstrips.

V.H.F. communication within the division, and to stations such as Miri, Labuan, and Brunei may now be considered to be most satisfactory. Communication with Kuching must generally be made at night when conditions are better. Jeddah and Sandakan have also been contacted with varying clarity.

V.H.F. is undoubtedly a great boon in this division. A minute or two on the phone will deal with a matter that sometimes took weeks using sea or overland routes. A number of private telephones have also been installed.

The main item of interest under Road Communications is the construction of the Lawas-Trusan road, fourteen miles in length. At time of writing I am able to mention that I drove along the uncompleted road from Lawas to Trusan in a land rover in one hour.

The Limbang-Brunei road was not used by four-wheel traffic as some of the bridges were considered unsafe. The proposal for the ferry at the Limbang is unworkable. A geologist has produced three alternative routes between Brunei and Tambunan crossing the Limbang district. None of these suggested routes follow the last six miles of the existing road where the unsafe bridges are located.

Education

Lawas District Council, in particular, has embarked on a big educational scheme which requires close supervision. Limbang District Council has also its own schemes. Both Councils built five new schools last year, the Central Malay School Limbang being the biggest.

Monsignor John Van Praet, Apostolic, arrived for the opening of the new Roman Catholic Mission school at Limbang. This is a very satisfactory building, more necessary to cater for the increasing number of pupils.

The construction of the Chinese school was further delayed, and there is little hope of completion before the middle of this year. In the meantime, the old building is becoming more dilapidated and up to the eye.

Somewhat in schools took a new lease of life with the visits of the Organising Commissioner. One Murut

troop from Long Tana, Lawas, made an ambitious trek to Mt. Kinabalu, North Borneo, which they climbed.

Miscellaneous

Mr. R. Fornas, an American on a Fulbrighter scholarship to Canberra University, has been studying the Murut race at first hand since his arrival here in January. I understand he will have completed his work in a few months time. He was visited during the year by both Dr. Freeman of Canberra University and Dr. Rodney Needham of Oxford University.

LIMBANG DISTRICT

District Officer: M. Sadler. D. W. Rowbotham, Court.

There was an increase in the number of cases heard in all Courts on the preceding half year. No serious crime was reported and the civil courts dealt mainly with trading debts and applications to the courts by the Limbang District Council to recover overdue payments of rubber exporters' former loans and Education Cess. Further applications are still to come before the court for enforcement of this cess, in most cases covering a period of two years.

Constabulary

The Limbang force consists of one Inspector in-charge, one Sergeant, two Corporals, one of whom has been attached as a CID Officer, and eleven police constables. The bachelor officers have excellent accommodation attached to the new Police Station and the station itself is smart and well planned. The morale of the force is high and their turnout on parade duties has been good.

Native Affairs

Land disputes along the main Limbang river continue to occur. The Iban in the Limbang have shown a strong tendency to move down-river in search of better hill padi land and areas suitable for rubber. The Iban is quick to use good hill land and has the energy and determination to see that he gets this land in spite of the tenacious opposition of Murut/Tabun and Iliwayah. Some of the land that the upriver Iban have now farm is held in tenure to the Murut/Tabun who charges a rent for the use of this land while he can persuade the Iban to pay. It has been said and it is partially true, that the Murut/Tabun have large areas of land which they do not use and thus can afford to let Iban use this land. This is only partially true however because it is now becoming evident that the upper reaches of the Limbang and the areas nearer the mouth of the Melamid do not include large tracts of fertile productive and accessible land. The Murut/Tabun are sticking to their lands even firmer than before and holding onto their accessible areas and these are the areas the Iban would like to acquire.

Pengulu Ngyang recently came into conflict with Tamabulan, a Murut headman, who lays claim to land that the Pengulu wished to use to build a new house. The dispute was settled with Pengulu Ngyang being given occupation of a small piece of land for his house but without any of the adjacent good rubber land that he had his eye on. The Murut agreed with some hesitation to what he considers an unwanted encroachment on traditional Murut land.

At the moment it appears improbable that the Murut/Tabun who number only a few score in the middle Limbang will decide to move out of their traditional areas, to say, the Trusan settlement area. Their leaders are strongly against moving and it is my impression that they have support amongst their people in their unwillingness not to move. Land settlement and the distribution of land may be the only ultimate answer to the problem.

Further down river an Iban house has encroached onto Belayah land and the High Court case that followed held that Ramah Jampi had trespassed on land belonging rightly to Belayah and should pay damages of \$1,600. That Ramah Jampi is finding it difficult to pay these damages and even when he has paid will not own the land. There has not been much evident enthusiasm for further Iban to move onto swamp land near Ulong. The one house on this land Ramah Nyong is doing reasonably well but has planted a smaller area than last year on the advice of the Agricultural Department who have advised him to pay more attention to good husbandry over a smaller area. The area reserved for settlement will probably now be used to settle Frochies who will be diverted from unsuitable rubber land at Barawan. It is not easy to find the areas of land which provide swamp padi and complementary hill land for a cash crop, necessary to establish an Iban house as a sound economic basis.

Iban "nomads" from as far afield as Labok Antu and Kari came into the district at the end of the year hoping to pick up five year certificates of identity to carry on to look for work in North Borneo and elsewhere. These have reduced to a trickle. Now, Iban from Sarawak come in officially to apply for Sarawak travel documents armed with written assurances and contracts of work from Government Departments in Brunei. The problem of the Kampong Iban has lessened and most of the new comers of the last year or so have been absorbed into houses. It is not known accurately, however, how many original Iban have thus become absorbed into established houses.

A meeting was held of *Arus ramah Belayah* at Batu Dama on 29th December to discuss the code of *Ajar* which is in preparation. Many new points were discovered in the discussions and difficulties of amending and the support of different sections of the *Ajar* were clarified. It is hoped to produce a final draft of the code in the next month.

Kolabis were down in large numbers from the Modith houses and the Batuan early in January on their way to the R.I.M. meeting in Larut. Several parties from the Modith houses have been working for daily wages with contractors in Limbang and elsewhere. Several found temporary employment tapping rubber in the Limbang area and for one short season cutting mangrove in the mangrove swamps near Kg. Rungas. This work they found far too uncomfortable and so they expressed it, unambiguously.

The Malays of Kampong Rungas have been in an uproar over the proposal to issue title to sections of rights and of house lots in the Kampong area for the payment of moderate deposits and annual rental assessed at agricultural rates on the unimproved value of the land. The outcome of the negotiations is hard to see but it seems that there is very strong opposition to the principle of paying anything for land which they have set upon for generations. It is hoped that the area will be declared a Native Area and brought into the crown plan, as the Limbang District Council will then be able to supervise the subdivision and planning of the area. The area occupied by the Iban is potentially, if not already, valuable land, adjacent as it is to the centre of town.

Fire destroyed a house in Kampong Rungas on the 3rd January. It was unfortunate that the household kept their savings in the house and some \$2,800 worth of things including cash went up in smoke. A brisk wind might have spread the fire but for the very energetic action and co-operation of the villagers Kampong Rungas is not right packed a Kampong for anything but concerted action in time of fire but it was a heartening sight to see that many had helped put out the fire and salvage what they could from the blaze.

At the time of writing the swamp padi around Limbang has been harvested and a good crop reported. The padi harvesting has yet to begin but most areas report a good harvest. The Iban house Ramah Tawi had their padi crop destroyed by apodictors shortly after plucking and they set to work to replant in a new area and their harvest is reasonably good.

Kampong Rungas make a profitable business from selling their fish catches to Brunei. Limbang gets only the second best fish after the demands of Brunei have been served and even then it is expensive.

Twenty-three persons have registered for the pilgrimage to Mecca this year twelve of these are from Kampong Rungas which keeps up the record for Limbang. The total figure include both Kedayan and Malay.

Limbang District Council

Four full Council meetings were held during the half year.

The most important subject discussed by the council in December was the proposal that all adults other than Chinese in the district should pay an Education Levy of 25 per year to the Council to provide a capital fund with which to build new schools throughout the district. The proposal encountered considerable opposition from the Malay and Kedayan Councillors. After explanation and discussion by Councillors and Government Officers the Council decided at the February meeting, by a majority of votes, to extend the levy to the whole of the district. This will allow the Council to build eleven new schools starting from 1958 with assistance under the Capital Grant Scheme from Government. Apart from the Limbang Central Malay School and the Chinese Chang Hui School, Limbang rural schools have not benefited under the Capital Grant Scheme and they are in a very sorry state.

Road maintenance was discussed at length and the Council have drawn attention to the difficulty of taking on the maintenance of local minor roads which are being used by a heavier volume of traffic than previously and require reforming and improving if maintenance costs are not to remain unduly high. A start has been made with the limited plant available from 1950 on the Barawan road and it should be possible to improve a three-mile stretch of road somewhat at the expense of other roads in the Council's area.

The Council purchased \$21,800 worth of Sarawak Government Debenture Bonds in November, 1958. Discounting the interest and the fortuitous profit which may accrue on the investment, a sizable part of the Council's reserve is frozen for a number of years. The Council passed a deficit budget in 1958 of some \$6,000 but at the end of the year made a surplus. It appears that over the last few years a large sum in arrears has gone into the succeeding years revenue. The Council for example has \$4,270 yet to be paid in Education Cos and this is slowly being collected by action in the Civil Court. This is a costly business because the Council has to pay court fees and recover these in costs if defendants pay.

Expenditure and surplus revenue over the years 1954-8 have been:—

1954	..	\$307,086	Surplus	12,643
1957	..	104,588	"	11,682
1958	..	188,835	"	256

The 1958 expenditure was high due to the capital expenditure on a new Central School and maintenance of roads. The financial details of the maintenance of roads also make interesting reading:—

	Expenditure	Govt. Grant	Mileage
1956	\$ 3,765	\$ 8,200	9 miles
1957	10,000	10,000	30 "
1958	24,450	18,825	14 "
1959	26,620	17,500	20 "

expenditure has thus increased considerably since 1953 in proportion to the additional mileage coming within the Council's responsibility and some six miles of the new Baraman Kabong Road is not yet open for motor traffic. There is no doubt however that the narrow stone surfaced roads are today subject to considerably more wear and tear than they were two years ago and this in the main has raised expenditure.

A town plan has been discussed and in it the process of being finalised. An industrial area has been suggested between the Sungai Puyan and Sungai Mandjau upriver from the Government housing area. The Council have decided to purchase land in the area to be laid out and zoned as industrial lots.

The Hong Sang Chuan Sawmill is being moved from the first site in the town and is being re-created upriver from Limbang in the proposed industrial area. This move will leave an attractive site which could be well used as a recreation ground and a sports field.

The District Relief Committee which is constituted as a committee of the Council met twice during the year. The committee decided to raise money for the relief fund over Chinese New Year and were successful. A total of \$1,210 was raised. A concert also was run by the Committee and Government officers (probably for the first time in Limbang) turned into fair ground attendants. It made a satisfactory profit.

A Reading Room and Library was opened by the Council in October. It is hoped that the new attendance account engaged will be sent to Kuching for training in the British Council Library there.

Education

The total amount planned to be expended under the six year school building programme is \$130,000 approximately \$95,000 of this will be Government Grant and an estimated total of \$35,000 will be collected in Education Cess. The Limbang District Council will help finance its contribution to the scheme by Government loans. Two new schools, one at Batu Duman in the Baram area and the other at the Kedayan area near the present Sekolah Kebangsaan will be built this year. The Duman school will be built as the higher primary school for the area and will also serve Uluong in this respect. Uluong school will continue as a primary school. At present the Batu Duman school holds over one hundred pupils many of them boarders. Two empty shophouses in Duman bazaar provide room for classes and dormitories.

The result from the Limbang district in this year's selection examination for secondary schools was not at all bad. The Council Malay school Limbang did not do well but the school is settling down and should produce better results in the future.

A lot has been said locally about the youngsters who compulsorily finish school at Primary VI level and the difficulty thereafter of placing him in the hoped-for white collar job. These disappointments to parents will lose their harshness, eventually, when they see that not everyone starts school as an infant and finishes sitting in the Resident's seat. But the disappointments felt by many has added fuel to the fire caused by those who consider the payment of Education Cess an imposition.

The influence of Brunei extends into the field of education as it does in other aspects of life in Limbang. Children are being sent to two Brunei schools by the 5th Mile and 10th Mile Kedayan Kampongs on the Pandaruan Road. Some go to the Kampong Hokoh school on the Pandaruan river and some to the Kampong Punt school on the Tembung Road. All that is required is the payment of \$50 pledges with the immigration authorities and the children are sent to stay with relatives near the schools. Quite large sums are spent by parents on the maintenance of their children but of course schooling is free and even meals are

provided. The people along the Pandaruan Road are amongst the most ardent and determined opponents of the payment of education cess in the district.

The proximity of Brunei has given some parents the means to the continued education of their children who have been turned down for secondary education. They go to a Brunei secondary school.

Chinese Affairs

Chinese New Year was delightfully celebrated and the hospitality of the bazaar was heartwarming.

The Foochoo migrants have moved to their new land via their own ships, which act as agents for the migrant. One or two Foochoo shops have been opened doing business with or through contractors from Sibu and the new comers from the Rajang towns. There are only ten families who are settled on the land at Baraman. Most of the migrants have formed advance parties for the planting of the rubber and after planting have returned to Limbang and Sarik.

Khek migrants from the Rajang have not yet occupied land made available for them at Bukit Lintang. Final demarcation and allocation of the land in this area awaits the action of the Brunei Government who have issued titles to land in Sarawak territory and in the vicinity of the settlement area.

Public Works

Work has begun on the surfacing of the first four miles of the Pandaruan road and the diversion of the Sungai Bapahin has been commenced.

The new Chinese school is going up slowly as a fine site overlooking the Limbang River and the new Chinese in the town is proceeding even more cautiously and slowly. The latter construction work has been slowed down as the syndicate building the cinema is having difficulty in obtaining sufficient finance. The total cost of the building which will house shops on the ground floor is estimated to be \$150,000 including cinema fittings. The contractor expects the work to be finished in June.

The Director of Public Works visited Limbang in December and addressed the District Council.

Health

The Brunei Government hospital still extends its welcome to the sick of Limbang but transportation difficulties detract from the advantages of this service.

Economics

The price of practically all things sold in Limbang is extraordinarily high compared to other places in Sarawak. Vegetables, when these can be purchased, are expensive and all foodstuffs purchased in Brunei dear. Buffalo and pig in Limbang is kept at an artificially high price due to the lack of a proper retail organisation and competition, although there are several butchers in town. Fish of the poorer grade is expensive.

Trade and Shipping

The export of rubber increased during the latter part of 1958 and claimed a welcome revival on the volume of exports that left Limbang earlier in the year. Imports have also risen and it appears that trade has taken on a fresh impetus during the last quarter of 1958 and the first months of 1959.

There is a shipping connection between Limbang, Brunei, Labuan, Miri and Sibu. Regular runs of the Towkiah (although at long intervals) serve Government Sums and F.W.D. More frequent private launch connection with Brunei, Sibu and Miri serve the needs of the bazaar and contractors. There is no regular private launch connection with Lawas and Sander and this is a deficiency which is not filled by the weekly run of the Apoh from Lawas to Limbang.

Regular launch services ply the Limbang river as far as Muga Melau. The high number of monthly arrivals and departures of vessels has been maintained.

Agriculture

The harvest in wet padi areas has been gathered early and is reported to be a good one. Hill padi harvesting continues and reports are that the harvest will be a good one from many areas.

Rubber planting under the scheme has been going ahead satisfactorily in the district during the half year. Much of the rubber planted however has been going into Chinese gardens and the Malays and Kadayans fall far behind. There are signs recently however that Malays from the Seruan and Gadong areas are interested in planting under the scheme in 1959. Kadayan rubber appears mainly to be the Kampong type irregularly and badly planted. A lot of this rubber it is probable will have been planted without a permit.

The coconut replanting scheme has been initially published in many parts of the district. Kampong Rangan people have made enquiries about rubber and coconuts but the land that is available for this is too low and saline for it to be productive. It is hoped to start with coconuts along the Limbang river.

The Murut consume most of the gum they produce in preference to rice which they sell as a cash crop. Some refuse is sold to pigsties in Brunei at \$2 per pikul.

An increasing number of buffalo are being slaughtered for meat in Limbang. Most of these animals come from the Murut area where numbers of animals are high. The Murut animals are kept as a form of wealth. Murut are the most adept at handling the lumber and for tramping padi fields before planting. The Malays and Kadayans also work their animals and sell them for slaughter.

There is a high calf mortality which keeps numbers low and neglect and disease take their toll of animals. There is an attractive Brunei market for buffalo and it is certain that animals are smuggled into Brunei but the numbers are probably not large.

Forests

The Section Forest Officer visited the district in December and January to inspect the Bessan protection area for the suitability of the soil for planting rubber applied for by the Frochew migrants. He also investigated the Protected Forest which it is proposed will cover the whole of the headwaters of the Basing Limbang. The boundary will run roughly north and south, cutting the Seliding running to the S.W. easterly of Tumburing State and south cutting the Basing Limbang to the Fourth Division boundary via the Apo Kap Labang. There is no objection to the Protected Forest from the Bess who farm along the tinges of the area.

The following timbers were shipped to Brunei, Labuan and Australia during the half year ending in December.

Brunei — Melintangai (bawn)	44,388 tons
Kapor (sawn)	95,453 "
Mersani (sawn)	302,939 "
Labuan — Melintangai (bawn)	110 "
Australia — Bialing	115.3 "

A total of 445.2 seven tons,
115.3 rounds tons.

Land

A total of 337 applications for land were received between 1st July and 31st February. A total of 431 sites were received from 1st to issue during the same period.

LEGAL DISTRICT

District Officer: J. T. Weekes

Court

Court work has remained light during the half-year and there have been no cases which have presented difficulties. The total number of civil cases was eleven, of Native Court cases eleven and Criminal cases seven.

The High Court heard three cases in the district, two of them divorces of Christian marriages. There were very deserving cases and only mild opposition was from the wife of the notorious Pongtan Sa who is wanted for the murder of two persons at Long Tampus and who has fled to Indonesia for the last five years.

Crime

There have been only two cases of selling shotguns across the border, a satisfactory decrease consequent upon the stern measures imposed during the first half of the year. There was no other serious crime.

Land

The Frochew area. Twenty-four applications for land in this area have been received and deposits made. The Frochews are at Sibau via Brunei and appear most willing and co-operative. These people being first-comers have got choice lots along the road. The layout is excellent and survey of it is going on. The soil in this area is good by Sarawak standards and was certainly an eye-opener for the Sibau Frochews. One of the difficulties is that the majority of these applicants are poor and they will find it hard to maintain themselves until their first crops are ready. In order to overcome this, permission has been secured for them to till old jungle in and near their own area. Now the movement has started there is no doubt that it will snow-ball and ultimately many more than the 4,000 acres now available will be needed. Fortunately, the approval of the Gaya bridge project opens up unlimited land in the old Lawas District.

Mirapah area. Enquiries have been made in regard to this area but no definite application has been received so Government has not yet made the \$6,000 necessary for the construction of drains. No one will settle on this valuable land until Government makes it clear that water from Sungai Mungah will be available.

BB-17 Temau Road. Three very satisfactory blocks have been laid out in this area and are under survey. One is Malay, one Chinese and one Murut. Approximately one hundred persons have applied for land. All wish to plant banded rubber and were fortunate in getting in their applications for the 1959 quota just before the end of the year. The land is excellent but difficulties may occur in some areas which are under old jungle. The people intend to plant padi there and hence it will be 1960 before the land is ready for rubber.

The Pongtan road alignment area. This is a swampy area which could be drained, so a level survey has shown, without too much difficulty. The intention was to offer the Chinese half-acre lots for the keeping of pigs, and the growing of vegetables for home consumption when the new bazaar is complete. Kadayan demands rights in this area were to be bought up. However, for once the Kadayans got in first and forty-two of them have applied for three or five acre lots for such growing in that area. It is after all their land and they must be accommodated. But the Chinese have no other area near the bazaar which they could use. Investigation is now going on to find out whether there is not enough land for all.

Throughout the district there has been a rush to take up land. One hundred and eighty applications were received in the last half year as opposed to one hundred and five applications in the whole of 1957.

Kuala Lavan. A welcome legal decision from the Crown Council indicated that the Kuala Lavan Conservation Land was for the late Deta and his people. Hence an attempt on the part of the heirs of the late Deta to prevent their people from planting rubber and other permanent crops has failed.

Agriculture

Padi. Prospects are very good indeed. A bumper crop is expected. Post damage, however, has been considerable in certain areas—chiefly the Tangua and Brayang valleys. Agriculture during powder has been distributed but not so early enough owing to transport difficulties. Enough, however, was sent up to convince the people of its value. In the middle Terasan an S.O.S. was sent by Councillor Laseang Ngilo and his people for rice phosphide. Apparently half his looking had been destroyed by rats. As luck would have it the Senior Agricultural Assistant had run out, but when the poison was eventually supplied the results were remarkable, and the stink from the decomposing carcasses of rats had to be experienced to be believed. The previous reluctance of the Muruts on that side to use rat poison has disappeared.

A wooden buffalo-drawn plough has been used experimentally in several areas and aroused much interest among the people. Certainly a good harvest is expected of these areas. In the writer's opinion, however, it will be many years before difficulties are overcome and buffaloes are trained. Before this has come to pass the demand for cheap tractors will be overwhelming. The Muruts have done very well with their small Japanese tractor and good exports have been received from North Borneo.

An attempt, sponsored by the Agricultural Department, to farm padi in the swamp across the river from Sendar, failed owing to the apathy of T.K. Rajah bin Adam and his people. It was diverted up river to Kempong Laga under Haji Rangan where satisfactory progress has been made.

Rubber. Normal tapping has taken place. Satisfactory progress in the provision of cloud seedlings has been made. Criticism from the Terasan side which was so reasonable has been stifled. A very much higher standard of maintenance is now demanded than has hitherto been required. Interest still continues in buckled rubber but there has been a noticeable switch towards coffee and coconuts as easier alternatives.

A small amount of seed was secured for the use and for laying down nurseries in Lavan. Satisfactory nurseries were laid down in most six Kampongs, and a circular in simple Malay on how to plant it has been distributed throughout. The nursery laid down in Lavan appears satisfactory. But much more seed is required.

Coconuts. Malays are eagerly awaiting the start of the subsidy scheme. It should be particularly successful in this district.

Livestock. The Buffalo Sub-committee of the Local Authority agreed to a trial ban on the export of buffalo and cattle from this district during 1959 in order to stem the decrease in numbers down river. This was a most painstaking effort, in the teeth of fierce opposition from the exporters, on the part of the Malay members of the committee. But their courage, and consequent unpopularity will be rewarded unless the attempt is co-ordinated with the provision of "Bafarant" to rid young buffalo of worms. Reports show that about 80 per cent of the total number of young buffalo die from this cause.

Hard to hand with do-anything an attempt must be made to persuade the Malays to inclose their buffalo, and as far as the Muruts are concerned to enlarge the grazing grounds. A start has been made on this but it is uphill work. This is one of the few districts in Sarawak where there is room for unlimited number of

buffalo and from which considerable numbers could be exported. It will be a great pity if numbers are allowed to diminish from want of care.

Chicken. Australorpes and Rhode Island Reds were distributed to every Kampong and school. Results had been disappointing on the whole down river but very satisfactory in the up areas where there is plenty of grain for feeding. It is to be hoped that this attempt to improve local strains will not be abandoned through disincentivising reports from down river areas.

Education

Primary schools. Attendance was in the main satisfactory during the half year and schools have functioned reasonably well. School equipment has been built up, text books have been supplied and teachers have gone about their tasks with nerve and enthusiasm for the most part. In particular an improvement in the Terasan Malay and Punning schools was noted. Blarupok on the other hand has regressed. School fees have everywhere been paid without too much complaint and 100 per cent collection was achieved. However, very great disappointment was felt throughout the district at the poor results for both Batu Lintang Entrance Examinations and the Tanjung Lobang Entrance Examinations. Only one Malay and four Muruts were accepted for the latter.

District attendance (all areas) in schools is 1998 for a total population of 12,145. This compares very favourably with any other district in Sarawak. But only five boys were accepted for Batu Lintang, with the result that the efforts of the brighter pupils will be wasted for lack of trained teachers in due course.

Still greater disappointment was experienced at the end of the year when six of the seven pupils from the district, who had been studying for two years at Tanjung Lobang, failed their Form I Entrance Examination.

It can be said, then, that the Lavan public have locally supported their schools during the year; the teachers have done their limited best, but it has overall been a year of frustration and disappointment.

The District Council welcome the meeting of an Education Officer to the Fifth Division and the return of four teachers from Batu Lintang. It is to be hoped that 1959 may prove more rewarding.

Five buildings. Satisfactory new schools were completed by the end of the year at Sendar and Kuala Lavan in spite of very considerable difficulties.

Proposals. Education Cess has been paid without dissent by the whole adult male population and the District Council has asked for a grant for four more new schools in 1959 and two in 1960 which will complete the district's requirements. Thereafter all children will be satisfactorily accommodated if these grants are approved.

Chinese Schools. Chinese schools have continued to press for English-speaking teachers and a new English-speaking teacher has been approved for Terasan school. One of the two buildings of the Lavan Chung Hwa School is definitely dangerous and a Capital Grant has been requested for its replacement.

The Kuala Lavan Chinese have asked for a new unaided school and this has been approved. If the grant for the Lavan school is approved, the situation should be satisfactory.

A very happy atmosphere exists between the Chinese schools and School Committee, the Education Department and the Administration.

Medical

The two dispensaries at Sendar and Lavan have functioned satisfactorily and no serious epidemics have been reported. The Sendar Dispensary has treated 2,132 patients during the year, and the Lavan Dispensary 8,238.

Tuberculosis has remained the most pressing problem.

There is no doubt that the health of the district is now good on the whole with the exception of the Tugata in the sub-Mansipok. These people have made some little effort to help themselves and they have been visited by the Travelling Dispensary and the Travelling Doctor. But they remain a poverty-stricken minority, suffering from mild malnutrition and poor conditions of living.

Ulu Dremers. The three sub-Dremers in this district had a remarkable impact upon their kampongs and have wrought a satisfactory improvement in the health of their people. This is the most surprising in that their knowledge is limited in the extreme. It is to be hoped that the Travelling Doctor will be able to hold a course for them and put over the small amount of basic knowledge which is essential to their work.

Travelling Dispensaries. The Hospital Attendant, Jamboh, has been running a satisfactory dispensary service in navigable waters around Lawas which has proved very popular indeed.

Health Work. The visit of the Health Inspector from Limbang have been discontinued owing to the inability of the Local Authority to pay its share in his salary and allowances. However, no falling off of cleanliness in the bazaar area has been detected. The Ulu Dremers spend a considerable amount of time on health work in their kampong and have undoubtedly achieved results.

Chinese Affairs

The spirit of optimism among Chinese in the Lawas district has continued and a good welcome was given to the Foochow when they arrived.

Provisional plans for the new bazaar were approved by the leaders who are for the most part anxious to build to a reasonable standard.

A restricted section of present tenants' lots was held. In the morning a large number of people attended to speculate and two elderly Chinese gentlemen bid heavily against each other for a lot which went for \$4,300. In the afternoon only genuine bidders attended and it was soon realised that there were more lots than there were bidders and the remaining lots went for approximately the controlled price of \$2,000. The early bidders were not amused.

The prevailing mood of optimism has resulted in a continued increase in land prices in and around Lawas.

Two tractors, one local and one from Saris, have applied to install an electricity supply for Lawas. The Local Authority decided to tender for cheaper supply.

The Lawas Chinese bought a remarkable number of Government Debentures when it is considered that they are saving to build new shophouses. In this connection it is worth mentioning that one of the largest single buyers of Debentures was Paden Puring, a Murut from the extreme side who bought \$2,000 worth.

Mr. Liaw Oh Boe, and a number of wealthy Chinese from Brunei have purchased the Lawas Estate for \$275,000. This was the last European Rubber Estate in Sarawak.

Native Affairs

The Muruts have been very busy with their agriculture and there is not much to report under this head. So bad was last year's padi crop that the domestic Muruts were compelled to seek a padi loan from Government. The sub-people continued to press for an air service to the exclusion of everything else.

Local Authority

The Authority and its Committees have continued to work satisfactorily and have passed resolutions on a wide variety of subjects. Among the more important

of these was the question of the eventual limits of water supply and the limits of the new town area.

However, it cannot be said, in spite of the efforts of the members, that the Authority is a satisfactory one. Recurrent expenditure exceeds revenue by about \$2,000 per annum. The result is that the Authority is unable to implement schemes for improvements in the district, and are unable to provide the Authority with sufficient executive staff. The Secretary/Treasurer is far too busy even to leave his office. The Authority having neither sufficient funds nor staff, it necessarily becomes an Advisory Body to the District Officer. Only in the field of education can the Authority really go ahead, with the assistance of grants from the Education Department, upon which it is dependent.

The time for increasing rates or assessments is not opportune as the old bazaar is deteriorating fast and the new bazaar has not been started.

Communications

Air services. The airstrip was satisfactorily completed and scheduled services were started on 2nd November, 1958. After initial teething problems before the grass cover was sufficiently well grown, the service operated very well—an average of five passengers was carried on each trip. The strip was fully paid on several occasions by the pilots, maintenance and grass cutting by firmens was good.

The Mission Auster continues to render the sub properly valuable service.

Ulu Tractor Road. Maintenance on this track has been satisfactory. A Bailey bridge for the Sungai Geyre was ordered from the Crown Agents.

Telecommunications

V.H.F. telephone service has worked fairly satisfactorily, though the service has continuously been interrupted by minor breakdowns. An H.P. set has been installed in Long Senada and is giving first-class service. It has already proved of real benefit to the sub people.

Paving Road. The Local Authority has spent a fair amount of money on improving this earth road and has ordered timber for bridging. This road is most important for the local Malays and it is hoped that it can be made into a dry-weather jeep track in 1959.

Sea Transport. The Apak has continued to work to full capacity, sometimes seven days a week, and has been but little affected by the inauguration of the air service.

Works

Apart from other items already mentioned the P.W.D. have undertaken the following:—

A new pontoon wharf at Lawas and a new wharf at Trean.

An adequate number of stand pipes was installed.

As stated before, public safety as regards a water supply has been to a great extent alleviated.

Miscellaneous

On the holiday over Chinese Day, a Land Sports, handcraft exhibitions and gymnastic competitions for school children were organised in Lawas. These festivities were most satisfactorily attended by children and parents; indeed some hundred children came down from Long Senada and Bah Kabaan. For the first time Amateur Athletic Association Rules were observed, a stop watch was used and new events such as the discus and javelin were introduced.

Lawas has a potential Bantam record breaker in one Piri Bada from Long Thana, who achieved 45 feet in his first attempt at the high-jump-and-jump.

Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals

Mr. L. W. Ransom	By air Singapore/Kuching on 11.3.59. Returning from Saraw.
Mr. J. B. Dickson (Nearly appointed Valuer)	By air Singapore/Kuching on 11.3.59. On first appointment.
Mr. Jander L. B. Smith	By air Singapore/Kuching on 11.3.59. Returning from Saraw.
Mr. T. M. Alimewik	By air Singapore/Kuching on 26.3.59. Returning from Saraw.
Mrs. de Waard and Infant	By July Singapore/Kuching on 26.3.59. To join Mr. de Waard.

Departures

His Excellency the Governor	By air Kuching/Singapore on 11.3.59.
Mr. G. T. Barnes	By air Kuching/Singapore on 11.3.59. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. P. V. C. Adamson	By air Brunei/Singapore on 23.3.59. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.

Mr. C. Hunter	By air Kuching/Singapore on 23.3.59. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. H. S. Brown	By air Kuching/Singapore on 11.3.59. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. C. R. Murray	By Royal Brunei Kuching/Singapore on 14.3.59. Proceeding on leave to New Zealand prior to retirement.
Mr. R. K. P. Edwards	By Royal Brunei Kuching/Singapore on 14.3.59. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mr. R. H. Allen	By air Kuching/Singapore on 11.3.59. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.
Mrs. E. R. Williams and two daughters	By Royal Brunei Kuching/Singapore on 23.3.59. Proceeding to the United Kingdom.
Mr. R. A. Bowler	By air Kuching/Singapore on 27.3.59. Proceeding on leave to Tasmania.
Mr. Eng Hong Kiat	By Royal Brunei Kuching/Singapore on 23.3.59. Proceeding on study leave to Kuala Lumpur.

Recent Books

Additions to the National Library during the month of March, 1959

AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE
Critics and Debates			
Cole, George Harmon	Murder on Tibet Islands. 1958	Hudson, David, compiler	English Critical Essays; twentieth century. Second series, selected under an introduction by David Hudson. 1958. 300p.
Curran, Ursula	The Gateway. 1958	Jennings, Paul	Chilly Chilly. (Illustrated by Vera Bennett. 1958. 100/100p)
Fitzgerald, Nigel	The Eastern Body. 1958	Kestring, A.P. and others	Recent Essays in Criticism: a collection of critical photographs by A. P. Kestring and others, with an introductory text and notes on the illustrations by Paul Brown. 1958. 100/100p
Shaw, L.A.G.	Freedom in the Egg. 1958	Lindsay, Martin	French Poetry (Jan. 1958. 100/100p)
Watson, Colin	Coffee Scarcely Dead. 1958	Machin, Tait, editor	East is East: Poems by Tait Machin. 1958. 100/100p
Fiction		Miles, George	East is East: Poems by Tait Machin. 1958. 100/100p
Bell, Adrian	The Mill House. 1958	Neumann, Peter	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Boggs, George	The Scumman. 1957	O'Grady, Wilma and	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Cartoon, Catherine	The Devil and Mary Ann. 1958	Reid, James	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Goldhill, Thomas	The Black Spots. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Humphreys, Ray	A Year Ago. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Hunter, Eric	Jeepers When We Meet. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Macdonald, Helen	Myself from Home. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Macdonald, Richard	A Year Ago. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Tait, Tait	A Year Ago. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Warner, Robert E.	A Year Ago. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
White, Patrick	The Year's Day. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Wilson, Robert	Interpreted Journeys. 1958	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Non-Fiction		Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Arnold, Guy	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Ashley, John	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Brown, George Leslie	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Chambers, Cyril	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Curran, Ursula	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Edwards, George R.	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Emery, David	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Foster, Patrick Leigh	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Glavin, R.N.	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Glavin, R.N.	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Hutfield, John, editor	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
Halls, Christopher	Longhouse and Jungle an expedition in Sarawak. 1958. 100/100p	Shaw, L.A.G.	Other men's graves: translated from the French by Peter Neumann. 1958. 100/100p
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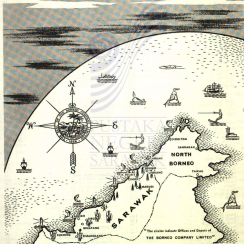
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Kuching.
Telephone No. 1502.

Kuching Market Price List

March, 1939

RICE—(per gantang)	Average
Local White Government Millad	1.62
Local White Millad	1.70
Siam "A" 75	1.60
Siam "B"	—
Siam "C"	—
Siam Broken Rice A1 Super	1.40
SUGAR—(per kati)	
White Sugar	15
Brown Sugar	40
Pipah Sugar	15
FLOUR/AND BREAD—	
Wheat Flour per kati	25
Bread per small loaf	25
Bread per large loaf	35
MILK—(per tin)	
(a) Nestle	45
Libby Brand	50
Chobion Brand	50
Milk Maid	45
(b) Local Fresh Milk per pint	30
EGGS—(each)	
Turkey	30
Dark, fresh	15
Dark, mixed	15
Light	15
EDIBLE OILS—(per kati)	
Butter per lb.	1.50
Coconut Oil	75
Peanut Oil	1.00
Local No. 1	1.40
Local No. 2	1.25
Other	1.10
Dripping	80
PORK—(per kati)	
Lean No. 1	2.00
Lean with Fat No. 1	1.25
Fat	1.00
Bacon	1.00
BEEF—(per kati)	
Beef, meat	2.00
Beef, Curry meat	1.50
Beefste No. 1	2.00
Beefste Curry meat	1.50
Mutton (Australian)	2.00
Mutton (Local)	1.00
POULTRY—(per kati)	
Chicken	2.40
Chicken Cocks	2.20
Falcons	2.20
Chinese Hen	2.25
Dayal Pheas	2.00
Ducks	2.20
Muscovy	2.20
Crow Brand	2.15
Geese	2.15
FISH—(per kati)	
Fresh Fish No. 1	1.00
Fresh Fish No. 2	1.20
Fresh Fish No. 3	50
Prawns No. 1	1.00
Prawns No. 2	80
Crab No. 1	1.00
Crab No. 2	50
Salmon Fish No. 1	1.40
Salmon Fish No. 2	1.20
Salmon Fish No. 3	80

SALT—(per kati)	Average
Cassia	15
Pine	15
Pipah	20
VEGETABLES—(per kati)	
Bamboo Shoots (salted)	40
Bamboo (Unsalted)	15
Bamboo	15
Beyam	40
Bitter Melons	40
Cabbage	40
Chungking Mustard	40
Cucumber (Tinned)	50
Chilies (Red)	1.15
Chilies (Green)	15
Dates, Rawam	1.15
Beans, Pink	45
Beans, Broad	45
Beans, Long	50
French Beans	50
Garlic, Fresh	20
Onions	20
Kuching Potting	20
Kuching Acorn	20
Kuching Beans	40
Keladi (Native)	15
Keladi (China)	40
Keladi	40
Korling	15
Korling	15
Lima	15
Lima (Dry)	15
Lima (Finger)	50
Lima	20
Lotus (Chinese Radish)	30
Lotus, mixed	40
Onions, Bombay	25
Onions, small	30
Potatoes, Imported	30
Potatoes (Bitter Ground)	20
Spaghetti, Imported	30
Spaghetti, Local	40
Tomatoes (Bank Assam)	40
Tomatoes	30
Trung (Kichin)	40
Beans per bundle No. 1	1.15
Beans per bundle No. 2	80
Beans per bundle No. 3	40
TEA—(per lb)	
Tea, Ceylon	4.00
Tea, Chinese	1.00
COFFEE—(per kati)	
Raw, Java No. 1, Local	2.00
Raw, No. 1	1.50
Raw, No. 2	1.00
FRUITS—(each)	
Pineapple (per kati)	30
Pineapple (Tinned)	24
Apples	20 to 30
Small Apples per kati	20
SUMMERIES—	
Raw wool per piece	50
Raw wool white per piece	25
Raw wool yellow per piece	25
Woolen per kati	40
Charcoal per piece	2.00
Coconut, Fresh each	20
Coconut Shell per tin	1.20
Dried Peas per kati	1.00 to 1.40
Kerosene Oil per tin	1.20
Kerosene Oil per bottle	25
Matches Local per box	40
Matches Imported per box	40
Soup, washing local per box	40
Soup, washing Imported per box	40
Saltine per tin	1.50
Saltine per tin	40
Saltine Wood, per panchang	20.00
CIGARETTES—	
Pavens per packet of 10	45
Round 1000 per packet of 10	35
Crown "A"	45
Tooth Light	35
Saint Express	1.00
Crown per packet of 20	25



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Sarawak Gazette

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Letters and articles are welcome, and should be addressed to the Editor, Sarawak Gazette, Kuching. If accepted, they should be accompanied by the writer's name and privately to the Editor. All communications intended for insertion in the Sarawak Gazette should reach the office at least ten days before the publication of such issue.

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

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

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Full page	1	2	3	4	5

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

R.S.—50 cents in revenue stamp (Revenue stamps to be added by all cheques drawn on banks outside Sarawak).

APRIL 1959

English		Chinese		Malay		MOON PHASES		Hindu Writings	
Days of Week	Month	Month	Days	Months	Days	☾ 8th New Moon ☽ 14th First Quarter	☾ 21st Full Moon ☽ 27th Last Quarter	A.M. h. m.	P.M. h. m.
W	1	1	24	Karamasin	25	New Moon (End Year of the old, 1958)		11 32	12 18
Th	2		25		26	Purnima, 1958		—	1 15
F	3		26		27			00 43	2 28
S	4		27		28			2 08	3 23
S	5		28		29	Vesak Festival Day (Chingming)		3 16	4 05
M	6		29		30	1st of Vaisakhi, 1959		4 08	4 42
Tu	7		30		31	Anandamayi		4 33	5 04
W	8	3	1		1	Anandamayi		5 32	5 42
Th	9		2		2	Anandamayi		6 08	6 11
F	10		3		3	Good Friday (Good Friday)		6 44	6 37
S	11		4		4	Good Friday (Good Friday)		7 18	7 04
S	12		5		5	Good Friday (Good Friday)		7 33	7 32
M	13		6		6	Good Friday (Good Friday)		8 24	8 00
Tu	14		7		7	Good Friday (Good Friday)		9 17	8 33
W	15		8		8	Good Friday (Good Friday)		10 02	9 18
Th	16		9		9	Good Friday (Good Friday)		11 04	10 13
F	17		10		10	Good Friday (Good Friday)		—	12 08
S	18		11		11	Good Friday (Good Friday)		—	12 23
S	19		12		12	Good Friday (Good Friday)		—	1 20
M	20		13		13	Good Friday (Good Friday)		1 01	2 18
Tu	21		14		14	Good Friday (Good Friday)		2 18	3 07
W	22		15		15	Good Friday (Good Friday)		3 32	3 51
Th	23		16		16	Good Friday (Good Friday)		4 16	4 33
F	24		17		17	Good Friday (Good Friday)		5 08	5 11
S	25		18		18	Good Friday (Good Friday)		5 33	5 51
S	26		19		19	Good Friday (Good Friday)		6 44	6 33
M	27		20		20	Good Friday (Good Friday)		7 34	7 15
Tu	28		21		21	Good Friday (Good Friday)		8 27	8 03
W	29		22		22	Good Friday (Good Friday)		9 24	8 33
Th	30		23		23	Good Friday (Good Friday)		10 23	9 33
						Good Friday (Good Friday)		11 30	10 05