

Sarawak Gazette

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Contents.

	Page.
The Queen's Birthday Celebrations	107
Some Recollections	110
Samudra dan Adat by the Poets of the Rajah, 1930	112
Police Metamorphosis	113
The Origin of the King (Emperor) of Japan	114
The Characteristics of Pailan Film	115
An Extraordinary Case	116
Special Storage	117
First Annual Athletic Championships of Mid District	118
The Museum	119
Early Lanky Dip	120
Letters from District Officers' Reports, First Quarter, 1932	121
Correspondence	122
Marketing Tapioca and Sweet Potatoes in Sarawak	123
Island Club	124
Sarawak Club	125
Kuching Market Price List	126

The Sarawak Gazette.

MONDAY, JUNE 30th, 1932.

The Queen's Birthday.

The first official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen was celebrated in Kuching on June the 6th in very fine style. It is quite accurate to say that the birthday of the Sovereign has never previously been celebrated in Sarawak with such universal manifestations of pleasure and loyalty. It may be said with some truth that, after a short six years direct connection with the British Royal Family, Sarawak is only just beginning to know and to value the link with a Monarch who stands above politics and yet who is the main Protector of our laws and liberties. But we feel there is more to it than that. The spectacle of a young Queen so constantly and faithfully carrying out her heavy constitutional duties, at a time when so many other Heads of States have failed in this prime responsibility, has clearly inspired in the people of Sarawak a feeling of warmth and understanding towards the Throne which they may well not have experienced before. But whatever the causes, the efforts were splendid.

The Government Parade in the early morning, at which His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. R. G. Adams, C.M.C., took the salute, was the most impressive and efficiently conducted that has ever in Kuching. During the morning over three thousand schoolchildren attended five cinema shows in Kuching, and during the afternoon there was a football and a basketball match. The winning teams were presented with "Queen's Cups", generously donated by the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce. In the evening, His Excellency and Mrs. Adams received three hundred guests on the lawn of a beautifully illuminated Astoria, for which occasion the weather remained cool and fair. The Town and Kampong were floodlighted or illuminated by thousands of tiny oil lamps, and the Dragon, Wapang and Torchlight processions which followed, organized and paid for by the specially formed All-Community-Queen's Birthday Celebration Committee, were magnificent. It took nearly an hour for the procession to pass Pengkalian Bala in the wild and quickly succeeded in exciting the children.

We feel it appropriate here to reproduce the words which His Excellency wrote in a letter to the All-Community Celebration Committee on the following day:

"The floodlighting and decorating of buildings were very attractive and the procession which passed through the town was excellent and a real credit to those responsible, who must have put in a great deal of hard work."

I was much impressed with the excellent and splendid show by everybody, and the tasteful way in which the various floats and lanterns had been prepared.

I should also like to mention the Malay Kampong which were most attractively decorated and it was remarkable how even the breakfast of homes contributed its quota of light to the gaiety of the occasion.

I should be most grateful if you would convey my sincere appreciation of the splendid efforts made by all communities in Kuching to make Thursday, June the 6th, 1932, such a memorable occasion in the annals of this Country."

We have no doubt that the occasion was greatly enjoyed by the unprecedented thousands of spectators not only on account of the external effects but

appreciated and remembered for the significance of the day itself.

The announcement that Their Royal Highnesses, the Duchess of Kent and her son, the young Duke of Kent, are to visit Sarawak for three days in October has given immense pleasure throughout the country. This will be the first occasion on which the people of Sarawak will have an opportunity of meeting and seeing members of the Royal Family and they will certainly gaze at them with interest in Their Royal Highnesses the best and most interesting of their country in the time available.

The new Hotel for Kuching is now a certainty and we are advised that we may expect rapid progress in its construction from now onwards. We are very pleased about this. A very fine site has been purchased on Rock Road and we are told that the Hotel will have over thirty bedrooms with private bathrooms, an air-conditioned restaurant and bar and a best-garden for use in the evening. It has been suggested that the Hotel should be named "The Rajah's Arms". Why not?

Obituary.

BISHOP MOUNSEY.

News has just been received with regret of the death of Bishop William Robert Mounsey, which occurred in the Home of the Community of Reformation at Miskeld in Yorkshire.

Bishop Mounsey, who was fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Labuan and Sarawak from 1899 to 1918, was over eighty years of age. After his departure from Sarawak he joined the Community of Reformation and had since been working for them. He was the founder of the Borneo Mission Association in England.

Rupert Mounsey.

FOURTH BISHOP OF LABUAN AND SARAWAK.

The death occurred in England on June 18th of Rupert Mounsey, Fourth Bishop of Labuan and Sarawak (now Borneo).

Mounsey had a varied experience—as Parish priest of a London parish, as a parish priest in Sydney, New South Wales, and as chaplain to Bishop Stanger of New Guinea. His experience, together with his own outstanding ability, made him just the man for the Bishopric at that time. For 44 years the Bishopric had had added to it the responsibility for Singapore and the Federation. In 1899 on the death of Bishop Frederick Hare, this wretched Diocese was divided and once again "Labuan and Sarawak" became a diocese on its own.

Mounsey set himself to the task of reuniting the Diocese. Its jurisdiction was officially defined—as covering Sarawak, Borneo, Labuan, North Borneo, the whole Island of Borneo and the islands adjacent and belonging thereto.

He formed a new Diocesan Office and chose Mr. Curry and Mr. Keith Choo Seng to run it. He founded the Borneo Mission Association in England, which for the last 33 years has harboured a great stream of people and called out a wealth of generous giving for the benefit of the Diocese. He found a staff so small as to be almost invisible; he felt it larger than it had ever been before in its history. He stood freely for discipline and proper order in the Church and in her Schools. When in 1917 he was ordered by the doctors to leave the tropics, men looked back amazed to see how much had been achieved through one man in a mere 7 years. These were indeed "the seven fat years". Soon after returning to England and regaining strength he joined the Community of the Reformation at Miskeld—a Community of Priests living the Religious life following the way of the three-fold vow of poverty, chastity and obedience. While serving as a simple monk in that Community he also acted as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Breckford.

To the last his chief love was centred in Borneo. His temper mind, within a gradually weakening body, followed with intense interest all that went on in the Diocese of Borneo and until the end he maintained correspondence with some of his old friends here.

He died at Miskeld at the age of 88 and his funeral takes place on Saturday June 21st. May he rest in peace.

Requiescat in pace for the repose of his soul in all parishes throughout the Diocese on Wednesday June 25th.—T.S.B.

Father Epping is Dead.

News has just been received that Rev. Clement Epping has died in hospital while on leave from Holland. Father Epping was in hospital with various injuries received in a motor accident, but it had not been thought likely here in Sarawak that he would die and the news has come as an unexpected shock to his friends.

Father Epping was ordained priest in 1918 and, being unable to go abroad owing to the shortage of shipping towards the end of the 1914-18 war, worked in England for a time. He first came to Borneo in 1920 and was appointed to Sandakan where he worked for some years. But it is in the Melanau country in Sarawak that he is best known and remembered. First in Muka with the Rev. A. G. Mulder, M.A., and then in Dohat with Rev. F. Mulder he acquired the intimate and thorough knowledge that he had of the Melanau language and customs.

After the death of Rev. R. Mulder in 1929 Father Epping became Rector of Dohat. After his leave in 1930 he returned full of enthusiasm for the development of his parish and the welfare of his flock. He installed electric light in all the mission buildings, equipped the mission with a motor boat and was well started on what looked like being a period of prosperity for the Mission in Dohat when the lean years of the Thirties brought economic depression, poverty and even hardship to the Mission. His people were poor, and his resources soon dwindled and it was as much as he could do to hold the Mission together during those grim years of need, and ill-health. Through these years of privation Father Epping never lost his courage nor his slightly acid sense of humour.

Caught by the tide of Nazi invasion he worked throughout the years of war as a chaplain in a hospital in Groningen in Holland. After the war he returned to Sarawak and took up the work of teaching in the Mission Schools in Kuching and Sibu.

This was work in which he excelled, though a strict disciplinarian he had a way with boys, and possessed of an extremely thorough knowledge of mathematics, grammar, and a command of precise and lucid English. He was a talented exponent of the subjects he taught. All over Sarawak and North Borneo there are men who were his pupils, who, in spite of somewhat rusty memories of his stern discipline, looked to him with respect, and loved him as their father. They will long remember him and pray for him.

He was an expert cook and trained many a Melanau in this art so that his Melanau cooks were much sought after by Europeans who wanted cooks with a knowledge of European cuisine.

He was a man of boundless hospitality and no matter to what straits his needy mission had been reduced, visitors were sure to be served with meals that would delight an epicure, and regaled with tales with graphic stories drawn from his own sometimes tragic experiences. His amazing stock of Melanauan legends will be remembered as long as old Sarawakians gather together.

Among his friends and colleagues his rich and impressive personality will not die. They will long remember this sensitive, hospitable, kind and extraordinarily generous priest, who though fond of good company and not invariable in the good things of life, spent most of his days in a loneliness that he felt intensely, often deprived of all but the bare necessities that he might devote himself to the work he had chosen for the Glory of God and the salvation of his people.—(Contributed.)

Borneo Reunion.

The buffet luncheon held in the Assembly Hall of the Royal Borneo Society for residents and ex-residents of the British Borneo Territories on the 4th June, 1952, received most gratifying support and appears to have been a success from every point of view. More than a hundred participated.

Among those present were the following Sarawakians:—

His Highness the Ruler
Mrs. J. G. Anderson and the Misses Susan and
Bridget Anderson
Mr. T. Stirling Boyd
Miss Ann Buck
Archdeacon and Mrs. A. R. Champion
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Digby
Mr. R. R. Edwards, O.B.E., M.C., and Mrs.
Edwards
Mrs. E. H. Huxley
Mrs. A. S. Kerri
Mr. J. A. Smith, O.B.E., O.M.
Archdeacon W. H. Storton
Mrs. D. Thornbery
Mr. E. M. Woodward.

The question whether this can be made an annual event is being carefully considered and announced.

results of decisions in this regard will be published as widely as possible through the same channels as before. For those who want these announcements information will be available at the offices of the Sarawak Association, 2 Great Peter Street, London, S.W.1, The Association of British Malaya, Malaya House, 17 Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2, or of W.A.C. Smith, O.B.E., 30 Richmond Road, London, S.W.20.

Tamasha dan Adat.

150 orang yang telah Haji telah berangkat dalam Kapal Rajah Brooke pada 9 pagi Sabtu 22.5.52. Mereka telah di-hantar oleh orang-orang Melanau sebagai hantar mereka yang pergi untuk di-jemputkan kapal dan di-tengah orang Kuching dengan melambail yang berhelai dengan sapu tangan putih.

Kelompok dari mereka yang pergi ke-lah adat poloh dan polohing. Ada berdo's sudah-sudahnya mereka melambail kapten dalam pelayanannya pergi ke-lah dan masa kala mereka sampai ke-rumah dan ke-kampung mereka masing-malah. Mereka berdo's juga berpuja kepada mereka rumah yang mereka telah tanah dan harta mereka yang telah mereka lakukan mereka sebagai ke-lah tanah yang sudah ada dan sudah-sudah mereka berturut-turut lagi memantulkan ke-lah.

Berbagai perkhidmatan yang di-dengar jangan-lah mendengar adat hukum, dan jangan berpuja-puja sebagai adat hukum. Kita sebagai adat hukum perkhidmatan itu, dan kita sebagai perkhidmatan jangan mendengar adat hukum. Tetapi-adat hukum adat di-dahukan adat itu kurang oleh se-mampunya adat yang mereka kapda kejayaan kapda beberapa berpuja, atau se-bagai-nya, jangan-lah segera-adat hukum kapda adat itu boleh menyempurnakan boleh berpuja-puja kapda dan mendengar kapda perkhidmatan yang tidak ada mendengar, apa itu kita di-bayar?—perkhidmatan kapda boleh kita sendiri apa yang boleh adat dan apa yang tidak. Tetapi-berpuja di-faktor lagi untuk perkhidmatan ke-lah tentu banyak mereka yang berpuja boleh boleh kapda perkhidmatan kita dalam kampung masa berpuja, kita sebagai sebagai adat hukum dan adat hukum selama dalam boleh kurang 7 hari maka boleh baik dan adat, dan pada berpuja di-tengah adat selama 41 hari, dan tentu adat berpuja-puja mereka sudah sebagai jika perkhidmatan hukum dan tari Melayu ada dalam kampung!!!

ABANG MONTAPPA.

By the Banks of the Rejang, 1952.

The need for the peoples living by the Rejang to think of their own future and that of their children can seldom have been more apparent than it is today. The price of rubber has fallen considerably, the price of pepper tends to fall and their rubber trees are, for the most part, nearly exhausted. There is little, if any, healthy young rubber coming on.

High prices for rubber since the re-occupation have tended to obscure the fact that the capital of

the rubber gardens (the bark) has been slashed off the trees at an unprecedented rate during the last few years. The trees, never high yielding, are now nearing the end of their life, certainly as producers of latex. The best were never good and most are planted where the water table is too high.

It is all very well for people to point to the fact that an enormous amount of money has been made out of this 'poor' rubber in the Bejeng but where has it got the people of the Bejeng? There are certainly many fine buildings in Sibu and to a lesser extent in Sarakel. In Buntang there are numerous new shop houses, though not all are occupied. There is in fact much apparent prosperity at present but what of the future? To contemplate the future it seems best to review briefly the recent past. There have been rubber booms and rubber slumps within the last thirty years; and most planters on estates, where there are small holdings adjoining, can remember that it is during the boom times that much of their labour leaves to tap small holders' rubber but that when the price starts to fall the tappers tend to come back to the estates. The obvious inference from this is that the estates, even with all the overheads which small-holders have not got to consider, are able to produce more economically than the small-holders. The reverse, namely that the small-holders should be able to produce *much less* in for at least as low a cost, as on the estates, surely should be the case.

It is not difficult to give a reason why many small-holders lose out during a period of low prices; it is because they have not learnt how to plant *efficiently* for or to tap their rubber. The hard work, the hard life and the difficulties of the smallholder in this country, as in many others, *must always be appreciated* but the extra work involved in planting rubber as it should be planted *hard turning out a good quality product* is surely not *unjustified* in the reward it brings? This too must surely apply to practically all other forms of planting in this country. Whilst the inference drawn above may not be sound in every case, there can surely be no doubt that the smallholder who farms his land properly and cares for what he plants will undoubtedly be better off, and certainly his children who inherit his property will be, than the smallholder who does not. The planters of the Bejeng whether of rubber or pepper appear to have treated the land they own as 'unpardonable'. Whilst the crop planted on it still brings them a profit they carry on; when it ceases to do so they ask for more land on which to plant the same or other crops. This is not farming, it is pernicious exploitation of land which no country can afford. When a farming population increases it naturally looks for more land but it must learn to farm properly the land it owns already so that this land may be farmed in turn in future generations. In all these places it is only on the remaining padi lands that you see anything like good farming on the basis of the Bejeng. On much of what was padi land in the past has been planted rubber and this has not been for the ultimate good of the people.

For their own future well being and certainly for that of their children the peoples of the Bejeng need to study how properly to use the land they have as well as how properly to develop any new land they may take over. The following suggestions are based on what may be called the proper use of land.

(a) That land which is suitable for padi, but which is now under rubber, be put back under padi

(even if drains have to be filled in).

(b) That where land is suitable for rubber, where the water table is not higher than 3½ feet and other conditions are favourable (no signs of Fomes, etc.) and which is now under rubber, replant with rubber, using mature.

(c) That, wherever suitable, livestock such as pigs be kept.

(d) That, where pepper is planted, proper precautions be taken against erosion and adequate suitable manure be used (chiefly organic, and containing nitrogen, phosphate and potash).

There are other crops, banana, citrus and other fruit trees, suga, vegetables and so on which can all be grown on suitable soils whilst the most important aim of the smallholder should surely be mixed farming.

It is quite clear that the large amount of money made in the Bejeng in the past few years has been due to fortuitous circumstances and not to the good farming of the people of the Bejeng. They have been very lucky and if they recognize this it will help them plan the future of their children. No one should deny the hard work done by the people of the Bejeng but perhaps their leaders are realising that much of their efforts would have achieved more if they had instead to achieve given them in the past. The unhealthy condition of the pepper vines around Sarakel is an instance of how little the planters have been willing to learn.

The fortunes of the Bejeng, except as regards timber, depend at present entirely on agricultural produce and it is not easy to think where the money is coming from in the not too distant future to buy goods which all the owners of new shophouses hope to sell. Unless there is some change of outlook among the various planters, and some vigorous leadership from the many businessmen, the future of Sibu, Sarakel and Buntang will remain precarious. The change required is from exploitation and mis-employment hard digging for quick profits to sound agricultural practice including the proper use of land—on no other foundation can be any prosperity in the future.

Government is very often asked to help with various matters but there appears to be very little effort on the part of the educated public to help Government by providing Government with its own educated and trained to agriculturists. How can Government do much to help if it has insufficient staff and where can Government recruit except from members of the public? Would not some of the money accumulated in the Bejeng be better spent in scholarships for some of its sons in such vital subjects as Agriculture? If an answer is given that pay to Government service is insufficient, the fact that increases in the pay of Government servants may have to come from increased taxes should be thought of. If the tremendous energy and progressive-mindedness of many of the people of the Bejeng can be guided by their leaders towards a more realistic view of the future and to considering their land as something to be valued and not just to be exploited for a few years and then left desolate; and if they can come to realise how great has been their luck in the last few years, then there is a chance that their children will prosper too, by the banks of the Bejeng.

Ethos Metamorphose.

We've never known what Nature is
Because we're always part of it.
The Masters change,
Those that were gentle are now hardened,
Those that came up the house-holder
Know our custom, abided by the custom
In the old days. We exchanged wisdom
For wisdom; and if we retained they cautioned
In their incomprehent survival way
With us.

Then all of a sudden the trees were gone
The jungle disappeared
Leaving us with unaccustomed soil
Barren for crops, useful
Only in the interest for treasures
We know nothing about.
Who did it? We didn't.
The new Masters? No, they though hardened,
Are still kind, still try to give
Some time to us . . .
But they come up the house-holder
With an anxious look, and rarely
Stay long enough
To learn the custom.

R.R.

The Origin of the King (Emperor) of Japan.*

Long long ago there lived in the heavens a king who had seven children. The eldest was a daughter whose name was Yamori, the youngest a son called Tami. Yamori was a great weaver, weaving many kinds of cloth.

Now it came to pass that once, when she left her weaving to take a bath, young Tami entered the room where she had been weaving and pulled her loom to pieces.

When his sister returned and saw her work all disarranged she was so extremely angry that she led him from the house into the wilderness where she entered into a hole (cave) in the rocks. And as she entered the cave black darkness covered the earth.

At home her father the King was greatly exercised and called all the wise men and priests and music makers in the land. These together approached the prisoner's hiding place and from afar mounted a great mirror opposite the mouth of the cave so that they might see her if she should begin to emerge from the cave. So all the musicians waited and the musicians made music there at the mouth of the cave.

After they had made music for a long time the prisoner in the cave could not restrain her curiosity to see the musicians. So at last the musicians,

looking unconsciously into their great mirror, saw reflected a movement within the cave which eventually they discerned to be hair of hair. Grasping her hair they dragged the prisoner from her hiding and as she emerged the earth was flooded with light once more.

They took her home where the case between the maiden and her young brother was heard. The boy was sentenced to exile from the heavens and cast out of heaven upon the earth. Falling to earth beside a certain river, the lad followed its course upstream until he came to a branch of the river where he discovered chopsticks and a spoon. "Ah", he said to himself, "these must certainly be people up this branch". So he followed it upstream until at last he came to an old neglected farmhouse overgrown with wild passion vines.

Going up into the house he saw an old man and an old woman shrouded in blankets like corpses. But he called out, "May I come in?", whereupon the old couple awoke and received him. Tami then asked them why they were in such dreadful mourning, to which the old man replied, "Because in this country there is a seven headed dragon who each year devours the virgin herbmaiden. This year it is our daughter's turn, and she is our only child. That is why we are in such deep mourning."

Then spoke Tami, "Fret not, I shall slay this dragon."

"So be it", murmured the old pair; to which the old man added, "And if you kill him you may marry her, son".

Approaching seven days later Tami obtained seven jars and set them full of rice wine, where the dragon was expected to appear, and hid in wait. On the seventh night he crept through the pitch darkness the hungry tongue of the dragon licking like flames of fire. As it approached, Tami drew his sword. The dragon dipped his fiery mouth and drank from each of the seven wine pots till he had drunk all and was quite intoxicated, whereupon Tami slew him that he died.

After that Tami did marry the old man's daughter and was crowned King of that country, which is to say the King of Japan. And that is how it is that the Japanese worship the sun, because their King was the youngest brother of the Sun in the heavens, so that to this day the Japanese worship the sun.

*Translated by R. F. Rowland from the Sen-Suyak written by O. H. Kuden in "Fumamag Shoki" No. 1, the magazine of the Royal Improvement School, Yawuchi.

The Charismata of Father Elias.

The strange events which surround the life and death of the late Pengliah Kadum have attracted such publicity that any further enlargement of the subject may seem superfluous. Unfortunately many of the accounts which have hitherto appeared are of an sensational character that the stimulus of emotion has largely overborne the duty of veracity, and there is now need for a sober and factual narrative which would set the order of events in their true perspective.

The Pengliah was in many respects a remarkable man, for he combined the virtues of frugality with the pleasures of luxury, and those who besieged

his aversion were compelled to applaud his disquisitions. It is true that many said he was never interested but at another's expense, and the objects of his politeries found themselves comforted rather than enriched by his attentions. He that as it may, at the time when this narrative commences he had acquired \$10,000 in currency and such a variety of disorders as to excite the interest, if not the compassion, of the Medical and Health Department. The money was scattered in three large jars in his bath, while the disorders erupted in every portion of his abused frame. Under these circumstances he began to apprehend that his disquisition was at hand, and cultured acute species of mind at the prospect of being separated from the fortune that he had accumulated with such diligence. He resolved to exhaust the resources of art and science, and while the latter could offer him little more than a death certificate, the former made available the services of innumerable managers and mesmerisers. Yet all to no purpose, for his decline continued and seemed if anything accelerated by the remedies invoked.

Seeing that all was of no avail the Pengkalu returned to a Religious Body, which operated in his neighbourhood and whose members he had hitherto treated with much contumely. He brought them to overlook the past and to afford him what assistance they could in his present afflictions. This they most readily did, but quite contrary to his intentions addressed themselves wholly to saving his soul to the despite of his body. Their service was immediate for within the day he was dead, and that it not in the previous course of his life attended in the stringent exhortations of repentance.

Great play was made of the Pengkalu's misfortune. It became the theme of innumerable satires and exhortations, even a small booklet was produced about it, and those who had known him in life to be a target for satire were surprised to find him in death become the subject of hagiography. Nevertheless the effect of these activities was on the whole beneficial, for it was during that if Pengkalu Sodem were saved some soul despair. Meanwhile his heirs hastened to divide up the \$10,000 and the rest of his property was rapidly disposed of.

I now turn to Fr. Elias, that remarkable man from whose intervention this affair derived its celebrity. His appearance was unimpressive, indeed nondescript, but it was impossible to make his acquaintance however slightly without falling under the charm of his personality. In character he resembled the Fathers of the Desert, whom he equalled in extraordinary genius as he surpassed them in holy simplicity. I always felt that his existence in the twentieth century was something of an anomaly, for patently he belonged to a more heroic age.

Fr. Elias was newly arrived in Sarawak when he set forth on his apostolate, and although he had been warned to avoid the area of the late Pengkalu Sodem's jurisdiction as being the preserve of a rival Religious Body, in his simplicity he confounded the river systems and arrived at Ramah Sodem some three weeks after the Pengkalu's decease. It is a singular fact that this holy man, who by his innate goodness elsewhere won all hearts, failed completely to produce any impression upon the inhabitants of this long house. In vain he preached, in vain he exhorted, they repented him not a whit, and after two days of fruitless labours

he announced that as they would not hear him he would preach to the fishes; a practice favoured by the more popular preachers of the thirteenth century, but since fallen into desuetude.

He therefore went down to the pangkalan and in a loud voice announced the fish to come and hear his message. Immediately there was a great disturbance of the waters caused by what by abuse of language might be described as a stampede of fish to the place of assembly. That they came not merely from the vicinity but from very far afield is attested by many witnesses. The Administrative Officer of the District was at the time travelling in his outrigger far down river, when a great school of fish rushed past on their way upstream. As he was returning from a hospital, he dismissed the spectacle as a hallucination, but there can be little doubt that these fish formed part of the congregation.

Within a short space of time the reach of the river within a radius of the pangkalan was congested with fish of many species; one unhappy *Shrook* which had been swept upstream by the press almost expired for lack of salt in the water and was with difficulty extricated and sent down-stream again, but observing this vast assembly charred the most pious of doctors and nervous. Fr. Elias recommenced his text, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity", and wrought so mightily upon his theme that all were visibly affected, indeed three small fish were so conscience-stricken that they wept incessantly and were suppressed by their neighbours for causing a disturbance. An aged crocodile was much moved and several times interjected "Amen" in a deep bass voice. For two hours Fr. Elias continued his discourse combining exhortation with instruction and withal handling his matter so powerfully that all who heard him must needs be converted, all that is but the most abandoned, amongst whom must be numbered the inhabitants of Ramah Sodem, for those reptiles regarded the fish with aversion rather than solicitude, and hardly had Fr. Elias concluded his ascription than they fell upon the congregation with paws and jaws and other instruments of arrest.

Great indeed was Fr. Elias' distress at this heartless massacre, and seeing the three repentant fish in a boat, he reflected that they had escaped eternal fire only to fall into the temporal frying pan, a matter which the good man pondered long without any satisfactory conclusion. That night the whole of Ramah Sodem dined heartily on fish, and the people now brought Fr. Elias to remain with them and to exercise his gifts further in their regard, for next time, they feared him, not a single fish would escape. Greatly moved by the way in which they turned holy things to mundane purposes, he nevertheless resolved to give them a last opportunity of amendment by demonstrating the truth of his message in a manner so forceful as to compel belief. In an awful voice he summoned Pengkalu Sodem to return from the tank. For half an hour nothing happened, for the country was some little distance from the house, then the door at the end of the road opened and the Pengkalu walked in, apparently none the wiser for whatever adventures might have overtaken him during the last three weeks.

At first the people took this apparition for a haunts, but the Pengkalu went straight to his bath and finding the three jars gone and his fortune dissipated, fell into such a transport of fury that all

were effectively convinced that he had indeed returned in the flesh. In a short time the whole house was involved in an uproar of such violence that Fr. Elias saw nothing further could be effected there and, shaking the mud from his feet, took his departure.

The uproar that convulsed Roman Sodam was prolonged reverberations throughout the entire state. The Religious Body in whose embrace the Pongulu had expired now bitterly reproached Fr. Elias, not only for having invaded its domain, but for having tampered with its most distinguished convert, for the latter consideration ruffled deeply. The issue was transcended personalities and became a major conflict of the rival persuasions. To compose a peace Fr. Elias in his simplicity offered to restore Pongulu Sodam to the grave, but his superiors pointed out the appalling legal consequences of such an action, and he desisted. Meanwhile the Registrar of Births and Deaths filed a suit against him for having been concerned in the falsification of returns. In this I was retained for the defence, and adduced so many examples from St. Nicholas to more recent times of persons receiving the gift of resurrection without recourse of the state, that the suit was dismissed, though the Justice in summing up warned Fr. Elias that the exercise of such extraordinary gifts under modern conditions often conduces rather to a *ludicrous* than to a wholesome piety, a sentiment in which the holy man regretfully concurred.

A particularly vicious attack on Fr. Elias was made by members of the Medical and Health Department. Several doctors had sworn solemnly that he had healed diseases that won'ty states reserved to qualified practitioners. One case in particular was urged, that of a sea-faring man whose wooden leg Fr. Elias had restored to life. The doctor, whom this mariner had previously consulted without effect, not merely deplored the fact of the restoration, but argued that it was a major surgical operation, the performance of which by an unqualified person was tantamount to homicide. In this case however the seafaring man himself came up to Kuching and threatened to turn the law on anybody who interfered with his leg, which so overawed the doctor that he withdrew his deposition on a plea of insanity and the matter was dropped.

Pongulu Sodam had meanwhile run the gauntlet of the local courts and now carried his appeals in person to Kuching, claiming not only the restoration of the \$10,000 from his heirs but also damages done in defamation and damages from a wide circle of people. There was every indication that his posthumous existence would be even more affluent than his previous career, on which account he had secured the advance of large sums from the more ingenious Chinese bankers in the city, and thus fortified was enabled to lead a life of riot and debauchery composed to which his former manners appeared to be grievously rustic, but which much complicated the theological issue, indeed the author of that edifying tract "Heaven Open To All, being, *The Life and Death of Pongulu Sodam*" threatened to sue his heirs for fraud. At any rate it was evident that though Pongulu Sodam dead might be a theological asset, Pongulu Sodam alive as a moral commitment of which it were well to be disencumbered. The rival persuasions therefore took to accusing each other of numbering the upstart Pongulu amongst their adherents.

Government now took alarm for the affair had suggested all compass and had achieved a publicity which threatened to bring into contempt the country, its inhabitants and its administration. Already a strip cartoon on the theme had been published in America and a cinematograph producer of Hollywood in the state of California threatened to exhibit a highly sensational representation of the same. It was evident however that the first stage must be to compose the ecclesiastical dispute, for once the rival persuasions had been placated the Administration could have a short way with Pongulu Sodam. After much coming and going it was finally agreed that the whole matter of conflicting religious jurisdictions should be referred to the arbitrament of some grave and prudent person appointed from London, and in this capacity there arrived in Sarawak Charles Albert Battle Esq.

Mr. Battle was an official of long service and high rank and his entire career had been passed in the Department of Finance his province was obviously those questions. He was a man of dry manner and indeterminate years, giving the impression of having been embalmied after a light handling about the age of forty-three. His mode of life was exemplary, it being his usage to retire at nine and rise at six, though how he occupied the hours *supra* his office could never be ascertained. When it became necessary to select an arbitrator for the religious disputes in Sarawak the personal records of the senior civil service officials were scrutinised and it was found that Mr. Battle was noted as a staunch churchman, albeit he was never associated with any religious practices or places of worship. On being questioned as to his convictions he replied that all that the Government believed he believed, and the commissioners hastened to appoint him arbitrator, it being doubted whether such a combination of the virtues of orthodoxy and impartiality could be found amongst any other of the senior officials.

Mr. Battle therefore arrived in Kuching and was duly accommodated in the mansion of a Person of Distinction. The following day he opened his court of arbitration in the Grand Chamber before a distinguished gathering, in which the wit and faculty of Kuching were well represented. Earlier in the day considerable bodies of armed supporters of the rival persuasions had sought to obtain entrance, hoping thereby to settle the dispute expeditiously, but these were repelled by the Constabulary who mounted a substantial guard over the building. Nevertheless the gravity of the opening proceedings was somewhat marred by a good uproar without, caused by the efforts of Pongulu Sodam to dismantle a tipping house in the vicinity and those of the proposer to defeat his purpose.

I do not purpose to relate in detail the proceedings of Mr. Battle's court, for the arguments advanced on either side were so pedic, so routine, and so irrefragable that the public soon lost interest. Even Mr. Clatterbuck, the Clerk of the Court, who effected some understanding of ecclesiastical matters, soon found himself completely defeated and sought solace in light literature, though out of deference to the court he confined himself to *Reveries*. The proceedings might indeed have been indefinitely protracted had not external events brought them to a sudden conclusion.

Pongulu Sodam had a daughter, a personable young lady named Theodora, who had lived for

some years past in Kuching, where she had acquired a substantial competence and a certain reputation, her manners being such as to gratify the rigorous rather than edify the virtuous. Now as the proceedings of Mr. Battle's tribunal became increasingly public and lost interest for the general public, Mrs. Clattercoke decided to take the air at Santolung for a few days. It thus came about that her husband was deprived of the pleasures of domestic society at a time when the tedious of his occupation made such solace most desirable. It was not then surprising that he should have sought refreshment in Miss Sadum's company, nor that he should have invited her one evening to his home for light converse.

Unfortunately Mr. Clattercoke's house lay on the beat of a certain officer of the law, a young man named Bajang, recently recruited to the Constabulary, who was noted for his zeal and expectation of promotion. This Bajang was affianced to a young lady named Parida of excellent parts and high principles, and it had chanced that the night before these events she had enlarged to him on the lessons of the times, citing in particular the case of Theodora Sadum in terminology that polite society confines to the Apocalypse, and saying how much it would be to the public benefit if such a one were laid by the heels. All this the young man Bajang took much to heart, for he was a youth of the highest principles with whom the common advantage was ever uppermost.

When therefore he saw Miss Sadum enter Mr. Clattercoke's shade he apprehended that if he could not vindicate the law upon her person, he could at least do her a mischief by putting her to some considerable embarrassment, a course which would certainly evoke the approval of Parida and set entirely with his own inclinations. After allowing a decent interval to elapse, he intruded into Mr. Clattercoke's house professing himself to be in hot pursuit of a notoriously suspicious party whom he had detected on the premises. In so doing he discovered Theodora and her husband in very intimate converse. But his stratagem failed of its purpose, and that by reason of his own simplicity and rectitude, for Theodora viewed his intrusion with abandoned scornment and rebuked him in terms that would have evoked the strongest repudiation from Parida, whilst the unhappy Mr. Clattercoke was vexed with shame and confusion. The young man Bajang therefore withdrew discomfited followed by the imprecations of Mr. Clattercoke and the comments of Theodora, who displayed an embarrassing proficiency in ballistics.

Well might Mr. Clattercoke inveigh, for should his spouse learn of this incident he would find himself in a state barely distinguishable from damnation, and knowing the rectitude and generosity of the young man Bajang he saw no possibility of the incident's being concealed. At the following morning's session he was so distraught that he swore a witness as Boreas and committed to prison a venerable father who had just given evidence on St. Thomas's tracking on the charismata.

During the morning recess he sought the advice of his chief clerk, Mr. Tan Tai Chuan, a man of high capacity and much attached to him personally. Mr. Tai Chuan bade him be comforted and promised as to order matters that he should that very night enjoy the sleep of the just, meanwhile he addressed himself to a subtle strategy.

I have mentioned that Mr. Battle's regimen was of an austere order, for he nightly called for his chamber candle at nine o'clock, and though it was supposed that he rose at six, he was never seen till breakfast time. This evoked much applause from amongst the wives of officials, who held him up as an example to their husbands, but it also provided a fruitful field for the wife to indulge their passion for improper speculations as to how Mr. Battle occupied the intervening hours.

Another feature of Mr. Battle that aroused comment was his furled black umbrella. This he carried with him whithersoever he went, nor did he ever open it, for when overtaken by rain he used the normal paper paying covered by an office boy. In point of fact the umbrella was a symbol of office, which is carried by the higher civil servants of a certain rank, and had it been inadvertently opened it must have been returned to the makers in Joraya St. to be furled afresh. This, however, was ignored by the wife who declared that Mr. Battle took the umbrella to bed with him as a protection against evil dreams.

Mr. Tai Chuan realised that these eccentricities of Mr. Battle could be utilised to extricate Mr. Clattercoke from his difficulties. He therefore went to the Mayor and purchased a black umbrella similar in appearance to that of Mr. Battle, on which he inscribed the name "Theodora". Returning to the Great Chamber he substituted this umbrella for that of Mr. Battle and took the latter to the apartments of Theodora, with which he was not acquainted, and which lay at great distance from the seat of government, and where he readily secured the co-operation of that virtuous lady in his design.

Theodora had a younger brother named Uhang, known for euphony as Sebastian, a youth whose precocious talents were exercised elsewhere than in the class room. It happened then that the court had resumed and was in the midst of hearing evidence on suspended animation, when the youth Sebastian entered bearing an umbrella, and going up to Mr. Battle said in a voice in which respect was tempered with clarity "Sir, Miss Sadum's compliments, and would you be so kind as to return her umbrella, which you inadvertently removed; here's the return your own, which you left with her last night", and he proffered Mr. Battle his own umbrella. Meanwhile Mr. Tai Chuan, who had entered bearing a copy of Augustine "De Peccato Originali", went over to the hot stand and recovering the umbrella from under Mr. Battle's hat exclaimed "Indeed this is Miss Sadum's umbrella for her name is upon it", which was true, for he had inscribed it there himself.

The effect of these disclosures upon the various parties was of various kinds. Mr. Battle being accustomed to deal only with financial crises was struck dumb. Mr. Clattercoke assumed an air of severe moral reprobation and slipping Boreas into a drawer thrust the pages of "De Peccato Originali". The ecclesiastical parties examined the ruling in exhaustive detail. The stenographers not knowing where to look fell a giggling. Suddenly there was a loud shout from without and an usher entered to announce that Pengdoh Sadum was deceased of an apoplexy in an adjacent tavern. This gave Mr. Clattercoke an opportunity which he was quick to seize. Rising he asked leave to address the court, and presenting absence to second none, delivered a very well selected address. He

pointed out that Pengulu Solum, the cause of the present discontent, was now deceased, that Fr. Elias had left the country to pursue his apostolate elsewhere, and that nothing now remained to disturb the friendly relations that had previously existed between the various persuasions. He therefore proposed that all actions that had taken place between the first and second decease of Pengulu Solum be declared null and void and of none effect and that the status quo ante be restored in all its plenitude. This was unanimously agreed to and the company dispersed paying scant respect to Mr. Battie. That gentleman remained in a somewhat dazed condition till revived by Mr. Clattercote with a discourse on human frailty and the need of self-discipline, which exhortation was very ill received.

The rest is soon told. Mr. Battie returned to London the following day and was there congratulated upon his successful arbitration. I understand that his name will appear in the next honours list. Some startling recollections of his visit to Sarawak must, however, have remained, for a person of my acquaintance, who met him recently, remarked with some surprise that his official umbrella was attached to his wrist by a small silver chain.

Fr. Elias, as I have mentioned, left Sarawak before the conclusion of the arbitration. It is no secret that his superiors lay in constant dread lest in his simplicity he might occasion some further scandal, for rarely have such great gifts mingled with such slender discretion. It was finally urged upon him that he should bend his energies to evangelizing the Grand Papaya, and upon his readily acquiescing was despatched out of the country with all speed, but whither I know not. At the time of his departure a rumour was current that he would go to Takung Takung. On hearing this the Vicar of the Turtle Islands held very high language indeed, and roundly declared that, his jurisdiction being both spiritual and temporal, he would commit Fr. Elias to prison in this life and purgation in the next should he attempt to proselytize but one solitary turtle. In the event the rumour proved groundless, but it was significant that Fr. Elias was refused permission to take turtles eggs out of the country, and that although he sought freedom at a very reasonable hour of the day.

The young man Bujang was warmly welcomed by Perlia for his good offices in the realm of morality, but the gratification which these tributes contained was much impaired by criticism of an embarrassing character originating from Theodora and given a wide currency by Sebastian. That young lady's wit was indeed of a hazardous character, for when Sebastian brought back the umbrella upon which Mr. Tai Chuan had inscribed "Theodora", she playfully enlarged the text to read "From her Chatty", and hung up the umbrella in her apartments along with similar trophies from other gentlemen.

Mr. Clattercote was enabled to welcome back his spouse with unalloyed enthusiasm. He related to her that his most suspicious of Mr. Battie had received a disavowed confirmation when that gentleman had actually sought to make of their home a place of assignment with a person of indifferent reputation. Mrs. Clattercote, much invigorated by the new air, dismissed the matter with an exclamation saying that nothing could ever make their conjugal felicity, to which her husband with a sigh assented.

H. PEARSON ST. ARNOLD.

An Extraordinary Case.

COURT OF APPEAL.

C. A. PENTNEY v. H. PEARSON ST. ARNOLD, and others.

Litigant—Litigant on the stand—Distinguished from Litigant on the wing.

The appellant lost his civil action for libel in the High Court, Borneo, Ag. 1, holding that as the Sarawak Gazette had stated that the appellant was dead, and in according to the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance anything in the Sarawak Gazette constituted prima facie evidence thereof, it was incumbent on the appellant to bring any action in the Sarawak Courts. The appellant, affirmed Borneo, Ag. 2, did not wait.

Verdict, the appellant did exist, and was entitled to succeed in his action.

Before : the Court of Appeal (Hare Pothole, C.J., Quamiam Merris and Buggie, JJ.)

The appellant and defendant respondent in person.

19th May, 1952.

The facts appear from the judgment.

Says Pothole, C.J. : Having had the advantage of reading the judgment of my learned brother, I may say that, whilst I am not in agreement with his terms of opinion, I am in agreement with his judgment in fact.

Buggie, J. : What's that?

Quamiam Merris, J. : It has been pointed to Pothole in this case, for the appellant is a man of some distinction in Sarawak, and no-one who heard the moving tribute to the appellant paid by the Honourable Mr. Hachithewine Theaher, the Resident for the Sixth Division, can fail to appreciate the high esteem in which Mr. Pentney, or "Cap", as he is more affectionately referred to, is held: not only by the burghers of Kapi, but in places as far afield as London and Limbang. Of ever's case merited sympathetic consideration, then this must be it.

In January of this year the appellant, having suffered the loss of an affectionate wife as men could hope for in this imperfect world, decided to spend his declining years in this country, a country to which he had already given the best years of a useful public life and in which he is deservedly famous for his *Shutles* into Melanau Grammar, and also for his *Home* fragment, *Justified* *Arched*, on *The* *Put* of *Good* *It*. Ourselves' loss was to be Sarawak's gain, and on receipt of the news of the appellant's arrival in Singapore pigs were roasted whole in the streets of Kapi, the township selected by the appellant as his place of domicile here. Bujang was removed from the Information Office, three new attack farms were opened, and indeed every preparation was made to give the appellant a proper reception on his arrival in the town.

Unfortunately the appellant had on arriving in Singapore been given a slice of overripe durian. The Malayans during, Mr. Pentney assures me, has a slightly more bitter flavour than the Sarawak variety, and he failed to notice the maturity of the fruit until he had eaten it—by which time he was in the grip of a severe cold. Indeed, so severe was the attack that friends and relatives in Sarawak were apprised of the appellant's illness, and rumours of his death were circulated far and wide. As the appellant's presence in Court would confirm the rumour was a scandal; but the first-named respondent, anxious, so he assured the Court, to do prompt justice to the memory of his colleague,

rafted into print as "obituary" notice which was reproduced in the *Sarawak Gazette* of March 21. That article is the subject of this action.

On April 7 the appellant, having duly recovered from his sickness, arrived in Kuching on the a.s. *State*. On disembarking he was astonished to find himself chained by half a dozen starchy administrative officers and, to the strains of a new song called "Coppo wouldn't buy me a suit-suit", carried off in triumph to the *Asrama*.

The appellant's consternation may be imagined. He assured the Court, and I for one believe him, that he thought at first that the method of his reception was a strange new custom introduced into Sarawak by the Colonial Office. Events soon dissipated him of this belief, however, and when he was shown a copy of the article referred to his consternation almost prostrated him with shock. Seeking first alcoholic and then legal refreshment, he instituted a civil suit in which he alleged that the article written by the first-named defendant, printed by the third-named defendant and published by the second-named defendant, defamed him in that it meant and was understood to mean that he was guilty of perjury in his hospitality, laxity in his matrimonial affairs, negligence as an employer, intemperance in his drinking and gluttony in his eating; it traduced the memory of *our Caroline*, a mistress of whom both the appellant and the Honourable Mr. Hockleywaite Thwaiter speak in the most glowing terms; and it villainously defamed the dear-departed wife of the appellant, the late *Carolina Honable Penney*. My brother and I felt that in law the article complained of was capable of bearing all the meanings attributed to it by the appellant, and that in fact it does bear those meanings. So much for this aspect of the case.

Now the first-named respondent advanced an ingenious argument which, in my opinion, confused our learned brother Blomster. "Look," said this respondent, "at the heading of my article. In which I state, in italics, that 'the character in this suit, under the name of *John Doe*'. Surely this must excuse me, is not it?" The respondent argued this with force and, I must admit, eloquence. I may say in reply that I have heard some ingenious arguments in this Court, but, if my learned brother will forgive the phrase, this takes the breeze by itself. As I understand it, the first-named respondent's plea is this, that the appellant was dead, or believed to be dead, when the article was written; or, if he was not dead, then he did not exist. This fiction was created by the first-named respondent in order, he tells me, to safeguard himself, and certain living persons referred to in his article; he argued that to those who know Mr. Penney the headnote would be meaningless, but to those who knew him not it would be all-important. Really! I share the appellant's indignation on this point. If a writer tries to evade his legal duty to take care, then he cannot escape it by so transparent a device. Such a heading as that relied upon by the respondent is quite irrelevant, useless and, in this instance, insulting; far from mitigating damages, as my learned brother suggested, it is likely to aggravate them.

I now turn to the other aspect of the case which confused my learned brother, Blomster. My learned brother was quite right in his law (indeed, he is always right in his law) in holding that it is not defamatory of a man to say that he is dead, when in fact he is still alive. There is a wealth of authority

on this point, and so far I would agree with my learned brother, it would not be defamatory mistakenly to say that the appellant was dead. *Dap-worth's Case* decided this shortly after the passing of Lord Campbell's Act.

The first-named respondent, however, has gone much farther. He has suggested, indeed, he has sometimes done more than suggest, that the appellant falls short of those standards of moral correctness and propriety which are and, I understand from the Honourable Mr. Hockleywaite Thwaiter, always have been outward and visible signs of a true Sarawak civil servant. Therein lies the gist of the first-named respondent's libel, and thence must the damages in this case be assessed. The case will be sent back to Mr. Justice Blomster, who will make the necessary assessment of damages; he will also be allowed to consider the question of order on the part of the first-named respondent—a question which is likely to do much to increase the quantum of damages. The appellant avows me that his strides into the *Macedonian Dynasty* have in fact been completed, and that his "*Devil and Fall of Devil and Apocryphum*" is likely to appear in the gallery book-lets, where it will no doubt be a best-seller. So, I understand, will end a comedy which began at Uluken in 1927, when the appellant and first-named respondent began their studies into the private life of Theodorus the Great; and I trust that the respondent will be gratified to find that this imposture is dedicated to himself—although avows that dedication will be the black shadow of the bogus obituary notice. So much for rivalry and malice.

Concerning the second and third-named defendants, the Editors of the *Sarawak Gazette* and the Government Printer, Kuching, I understand that their non-appearance has been due to their having received an undertaking either from the Financial Secretary or the Accountant-General, or some such office accustomed to handle large sums of money, indemnifying them from all costs and expenses incurred in this action. I think that is a fine gesture on the part of Government and, whilst I deplore the absence of the respondents, I admire the open-handed generosity of a Government already paying the appellant a handsome pension. I trust the infinitely also extends to the action being brought against the respondents by the appellant's new mistress, an eligible young lady residing in Kuching and residing in the curious name of *Wak Wak*.

Boyle, J.: What's all this about? Why doesn't somebody tell me what's going on?

Nave Reddie, C.J.: Do you converse, or not?

Boyle, J.: I suppose so. Otherwise I'll have to write my own judgment.

Quintan Mirell, J.: Thank you.

Boyle, J.: Gullwing.

Nave Reddie, C.J.: What's that?

Boyle, J.: I said "gullwing".

Nave Reddie, C.J.: Oh, I thought you said "gullwing".

Boyle, J.: I did.

Nave Reddie, C.J.: Oh.

Appel allowed. Case referred back to High Court for assessment of damages.

—Darius.

Special Stowage.

If she could but speak, probably only the good ship "Angley" could tell us how many voyages she has made between Rangoon and Singapore, the varieties of cargoes she has carried and the special instructions which may or may not have applied to them. The ship-owners' nightmare is the shipper who requires special stowage:—the meat which must be kept to 28 degrees exactly for the whole journey, the benzene which must not be mixed with fuel-oil, the live sheep which must be allowed to roam the ship at will for fear they lose a couple of pounds in weight, the kullian which must be kept out of the crew's quarters, the bales of textiles which must be hung out to dry if they get wet, and a thousand other exceptional cases, which are of all-importance to their owner, and of which note must be taken by the ship, for the 'customer is always right'.

Amongst her cargo on a recent journey to Rangoon the "Angley" carried a comparatively small box, which was in fact a kennel, containing two lively but quite small pieces of livestock. It is clear however that their shippers evidently considers that ships' officers are amongst the most over-paid and under-worked workmen after fire-bricks, for the Chief Officer had been advised in advance with the following:—

DIET FOR BOXER PUPPIES: To be strictly adhered to on voyage from Singapore to Rangoon.

6.7 a.m. Each puppy to be given 2 shovels of hand-baked meat, two Yotyrine tablets, and one Quavite tablet.

8-10 a.m. Each puppy to be given one half pint milk (made from Lactogen milk powder) mixed with one very lightly-boiled (14 minutes) fresh egg.

12-1 p.m. Each puppy to be given half cup of Chappee food mixed with 4 ozs. boiled rice.

4.00 p.m. Each puppy to be given one-half pint milk (made from Lactogen milk powder), also three Yotyrine tablets.

7.00 p.m. Each puppy to be given half cup of Chappee food mixed with 4 ozs. boiled rice, also one Quavite tablet.

EXERCISES.—The puppies' kennel must be kept in a place which is out of the direct rays of the sun. The puppies should be taken on deck frequently, say every two hours during daylight hours, to relieve nature. (The Chief Officer says this was quite simple, but somehow or other his two little charges just had not learnt to tell the time.) An ample supply of fresh water for drinking should be available at all times. The puppies will enjoy a romp round the deck, but it is essential that they be exercised only in a place where they can't jump overboard.

NOTE.—No chilled milk, water or food should be given to puppies. Puppies must be kept in a cool place at all times and not exposed to sun's rays except early morning or late evening.

It is a matter for some conjecture whether this harsh care and attention was provided for the two important gentlemen concerned on their covered journey up the coast on the equally good ship "Timbul".

(Contributed.)

First Annual Athletic Championships of Miri District.

The recently formed Miri District Athletic Association held their first A.A.A. Championships on the 16th June, thereby opening a chapter in the history of sport in the Colony.

The Miri meeting was suitably prepared by the kind assistance of Messrs. Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. The weather was ideal and a large enthusiastic crowd arrived to witness the finale of the championship events, the preliminaries having been held two days previously.

Timings were not as good as had been hoped. Lack of experience and training was very evident. However, competition was extremely keen and the A.A.A. Committee feel confident that the Association has a bright future.

Thanks were due to the Amateur Athletic Association of North Borneo for their assistance and advice through their Hon. Secretary Mr. G. Elms, to the numerous sporting gentlemen who acted as officials, and to the Boy Scouts whose co-operation was felted greatly to the success of the meeting.

Trophies were presented by Mrs. G. Stanger.

Detailed results were as follows:—

1. Long Jump. Final won by Hassan Hassan. Distance 18 ft.
2. 120 yards High Hurdles. Final won by Sim Poh Ho. Time 17.5 seconds.
3. 500 yards. Final won by Rankli. Time 2 min. 21.5 sec.
4. 1000 Yards. Final won by Sim Poh Ho. Height 5 ft. 5 ins.
5. 100 yards. Final won by Teokli. Time not taken; School final won by Rankli. Time 11.00 sec.
6. High Jump. Final won by Sim Poh Ho. Height 5 ft. 6 ins.
7. 440 yards. Final won by Rankli. Time 58.00 sec.
8. 220 yards. Final won by Thuan Sim Koon. Time 39.5 sec.
9. Putting the Weight. Final won by Arang Tengah. Distance 29 ft. 7 ins.
10. One Mile. Final won by Baily. Time 5 min. 11.2 sec.
11. Relay Race (4 x 110). Won by Layang S.C. Time 56.5 sec.

Best Performance Timings.

Champion Athlete—Sim Poh Ho.

Schools Championship—St. Joseph's, Miri.

The above timings are believed to be the first to be officially recorded at a sports meeting held under A.A.A. Rules in the Colony and are being notified to the North Borneo A.A.A. as records.

The Museum.

Malay Survey.

A Colonial Development and Welfare grant has been made for study of the Malay Community on socio-economic survey lines. In recent years, similar studies have been made of the Iban, Land Dayak and Melanau, by Drs. D. Freeman, W. E. Geddes, and S. Martin respectively. But no studies of the Malays has yet been made for comparison.

The study will mainly deal with the living and working conditions and customs—and it may do something to fill the gap in our knowledge of what analysed by R.H.H. in the last Gazette.

One of the needs is to obtain local help in this work. We shall be grateful for any volunteers, in helping with interviewing, collecting sample information, etc. Three senior students at the University of Malaya, Mr. Munster bin Osman, Harjah Azman and Mr. Chai Jia Bee, arrived at the end of June to assist in the survey, through the courtesy of Professor G. H. Bulley of the University of Malaya. They are now engaged in preliminary survey of Nantabong. Meanwhile Mr. George Jacob, seconded from the Medical and Health Department for a period, has made a survey of fishing and related activities in the Bejing delta.

It is intended to extend the survey over the next 18 months to cover Kuching and other districts.

Worms to Men.

Though curiously little organized medical research has been done in Borneo except for the work of the Malaria Research Unit (based in Labuan but covering all the British Territories), it is generally believed that there are several diseases which are of major importance in holding back the development of these territories. It is strange that so little has been done to study the basic facts for the whole point of our development plans, laws, administration and progress: the health of the native populations, scientifically measured. Scarcely everything we know about, for instance, the reasons why most of the people in the interior are still decreasing, we do not really know at all; it is guess work. We do not believe that the Director of Medical and Health Services will disagree on this.

In our own observation, one of the biggest factors in backworm. These people who are written off as lazy or incompetent, are quite possibly suffering from major infections of backworm. And backworm greatly reduces the persons' resistance to other diseases when they strike.

The *Geographical Review*, one of the many journals exchanged for the *Sarawak Museum Journal* (it is published by the American Geographical Society), has recently produced a beautiful map of the distribution of backworm infections, based on the large majority of countries in which research has actually been carried out.

We quote from the *Geographical Review*—

".....in a world population of 2108.8 million in 1917, there were 2252.1 million infections, which means that 104.8 per cent of the population of the world carried worms that could become or already were pathogenic. The extra 4.2 per cent was, of course, due to multiple infections. No estimate exists of the relative

number of human beings who were at a given time completely free of worms. But it is safe to say that this number would be a little larger than the above figures would lead one to believe, since heavily parasitized populations (infection by more than one worm) are common, as is shown by the overlapping of spiracles on certain parts of the map."

We have seen little of the Malaria Research people in Sarawak, unfortunately. But Dr. H. Collins recently spent a few days in Kuching looking at the Museum collections, collecting some specimens himself. He has also written a paper for the next *Sarawak Museum Journal* describing two new species of nematode from Borneo. We are very glad to publish his descriptions, though it is to be admitted that one always felt there were enough nematodes in Borneo already!

Grobs to you.

The following letter from Father Airhouse, who has written valuable papers on native life, is addressed by him from the Roman Catholic Mission, Dulu, and repeated here in the hope that it may stimulate other information or enquiries. Father Airhouse writes:

"Just a few lines about a subject I know nothing about.

At present the Melanau here are going to the jungle to collect a kind of worm, called "louch". They think of it as something delicious to eat. The worm is actually inside a cocoon. It eats the leaves of one tree, called "ayute". The area in which these worms are found is between Oya-Melung and Igan River as far as the Lusa River. They seem to be nowhere else. The Chinese say it is the same as the silkworm in China.

I think it would be worthwhile to investigate the matter by an expert."

Enquiries among knowledgeable people around Kuching have shown blank on this subject so far. The only sort of grobs we know of that people eat are ones occurring in rotten trees up in the hill country. Sometimes you may find as many as 40-50 in one trunk. The people up there highly esteem them. Whoever finds the best trunk first will put some marker on it, which states that it is his right to acquire these grobs when they are full-size. No one else would dare infringe such a mark, on fear of being struck dead.

The larva of the Carpenter Bee, when it cocoons, make a golden oval mass which is delicious eating, something between honey and ice-cream. The Carpenter Bee is the very large black insect which flies around all but the best modern plastic houses and makes long tunnels into the timber. The only trouble about developing a passion for Carpenter Bee cocoons is that you have to tear your house to pieces!

Collections of birds from Mr. A. Morrison and Mr. Roper Noring.

Mr. Rufus Noring who is teacher at St. Luke's School, Simanggang, has sent in an interesting small collection of birds from around Simanggang. He writes to say that he is only feeling his way back into the practice of skinning which he learnt as one of the class of Batu Lintang students who came to the Museum for incidental lessons some years ago—also, this no longer goes on! Several of our Batu Lintang trainees have promised to

collect for us. It is possible now to organize them and keep them supplied with the necessary materials, and also to visit them from time to time, since Mr. J. Banggs joined the staff. Mr. Banggs, who is a Sen Dayak, spent many years as taxidermist in the Selangor Museum in Malaya, and has been on expeditions to New Guinea and Sum as well as working all over Malaya. His wide experience is a great help. He is specially in charge of the part-time collecting scheme, which was referred to by His Excellency in his speech to last Council Night.

Will other old Bata Lintang students who have lost touch, please communicate with the Museum. Please?

Over the last two years Mr. A. Morrison has become perhaps our most regular and consistent benefactor. He is particularly interested in birds and has written many original papers on the subject in scientific journals. But birds are only one of the series of things he has helped the museum with.

At the moment, again, however, he has returned to the ornithological charge with a particularly useful small collection from the middle Borneo. These birds were mostly collected on top of a single hill, Sepati, just over 5,000 ft.

Mr. Morrison's collection also includes two new kingfishers, and as he puts it:

"I am also sending you two Kingfishers from the Ulu Majak which Defavour states to be uncommon, and a Scops Owl which was unable enough to fly into the banyans at Kuching."

Although scientific collecting has been done quite a large scale in the First and Fourth Divisions, moderately in the Second Division, hardly anything has been done in the Fifth and Third Divisions. We now have two Museum-trained or part-time collectors working in the Fifth Division. We should welcome suggestions for intelligent young to be prepared to come down to Kuching for three months training, from the Third Division, especially between Sibu and Belaga and on the Balak. Perhaps the Rural Improvement School, Kuching, can help by sending down students who could then go back and teach others. There is no doubt that the chaps themselves find it fun.

Other Gifts.

Among other gifts received are a beautiful green and yellow moth presented by Father Scott of Beting, who found it in the Bishop's house while visiting Kuching; and a magnificent caterpillar from the Batu Tumbak Taba. Madam Ng Lok Mei presented us with a live Brak (Museum specimens)—a good addition to our Life Animal Section.

Mr. A. G. Glanville, author of the new book "Birds of the Malay Peninsula" has kindly presented an autographed copy for the Sarawak Museum Reference Library. We have already referred to this book in this column, as the last available for bird watchers in Borneo. Actually, Mr. Glanville had not seen what we had written and his presentation was a spontaneous act of generosity.

The following interesting publications have been forwarded for the Archives Section from the Government Printer, Mr. W. J. Chester:

Sarawak Subordinate Service Regulations, Order No. XVI, 1932.

Undang Undang di Kota-Melayu (in Jawi).

Outline of Sarawak History 1839-1917 by A. E. Ward.

Schacht Coal—by C. F. J. Galloway, B.Sc., 1921.

Sylvia Cinema Souvenir Programme dated 31st August, 1934 (Visit of Lady Louis Mountbatten).

SARAWAK. Air Raid Precautions Handbook No. 7.

AUCTION MAN-JOSGO.

"The outline of Sarawak History, 1839-1917," by Mr. A. E. Ward, is a particularly useful publication and we suggest that higher authority might consider reprinting it for the benefit of officers doing examinations on Sarawak History. A copy should also be on every government office desk—especially those officers arriving from other colonies who cannot be expected to know anything much of the colony's pre-colonial past. (This is by way of being a continuing apology to Mr. A. E. Ward for not yet having done full justice to his useful material.)

A particularly interesting coin was recently found during improvement work at the airfield and presented to the Museum by Flight-Sergeant G. Peart, to whom we are much indebted. It is an 18th cent. with the first Rajah's head, in a good state of preservation. As we have said before in this column, our coin collection is pitifully inadequate.

London and Java.

Talking about gifts, we have just received the fifteenth volume of the British Museum Quarterly, the first to be published since 1928. It therefore covers more than a decade (1929-31) of acquisitions to the British Museum, London. The staggering wealth and variety of the material have discussed since our penultimate water and beer. But more impressive still is the first section by the Director, describing "the British Museum in War-time."

Extraordinary precautions were taken to preserve this valuable collection by sending much of it out (into the country); these nevertheless were less than every bombardment in such sections as the unique library which it was impossible to move. In all, eight explosive bombs, one of which and hundreds of incendiary bombs fell on the Museum. With great good fortune one very large bomb about 1,000 tonnes, which would have wrecked the building, failed to explode because its tail was torn off by a glider which it struck, and this pulled out its head-case detonator, the war later found intact. Even more extraordinary, only four days later another bomb went through exactly the same hole (out of the whole 12 acres of the Museum buildings) and again failed to explode, being removed by the bomb disposal squad. This entry of two bombs through the same hole is an astonishing improbability in terms of mathematics. Even more astonishing is the fact that both of them failed to explode—whereas the great majority of bombs certainly had no such pleasant inactivity (as the present writer knows very well from his own home in Kensington).

As Sir John Fendley, Director, puts it—

"This rare or perhaps unique phenomenon, appropriately covered in a Museum."

Nearer to hand if not nearer to heart, is the report on Indonesian Museums, especially those in Java, contained in the latest number of the *Indonesian Review*, one of the many publications which the Ministry of Information at Djakarta are kind enough to send to our Reference Library, where they are available.

The writer well puts the sort of dilemma which faces any scientist or scientific body seeking to be nationalist and independent, yet facing inevitably that science itself is international and inter-dependent. Once things like medical research and atomic physics and museums become localized or aggressive, they have none the needs of their ultimate conclusion. This is often forgotten even by the scientist. It is worth quoting from the concluding paragraph of the thoughtful article in the *Indonesian Review*:—

....."The present Minister of Education and Culture, Dr. Wasonopuro, is an ardent promoter of culture, especially when it can be put within the reach of the people. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the existing museums will be run more on modern lines than they are now and will be modelled upon those in foreign countries, where the pedagogical side of the museum has been taken in hand with great intensity. In Sarawak, activities in this direction have already started. May the large museum in Djibouti and Djogja soon follow suit. The training of competent museum staffs should be the first care, for differentiation will be more keen than good. This should be done in foreign countries."

The Museums in this country are up against many problems, which require a typically Indonesian solution."

Sarawak Museum Journal.

The new issue is just to hand and will be dealt with in the next Gazette.

PUST
NEG
SARA

(Contributed.)

Fairly Lucky Dip.

I am, I suppose, a privileged person. When the British Council unpack their books they generally pass a good word over to me before they are put on loan to the public. The snag is that in return I have to write bits and pieces about the books. In order to do that, it is just as well to read the books. But not all books received by the British Council make reading. To be more exact, it is unlikely that the wide range of public, for which these books are selected in Sarawak, should all be consumed up in this one reviewer's! Therefore, I have to make through quite a bit of stuff which is at times faintly painful to me, maybe delectable to you (or you). Such is books.

Over the past few months I have developed a technique in overcoming this difficulty, however. I sift the books into heaps. Each heap consists of two of the books that I think I am not to like, and

one that I am sure I will. I start reading three when I have finished writing or drinking or whatever I happen to be doing that evening, say about nine o'clock. If necessary, a bottle of Harro's Bristol Milk Sherry is placed on the bedside to sustain me through the first chapters of the book on top of heap—the expected worst. That way I manage to get through the book by about one o'clock in the morning; or else I fall asleep and dream the rest of it that I haven't read. It is usually all too easy to know the rest of the story with many works of fiction.

If I wake up again before about six in the morning (which is almost inevitable owing to the din made by dogs in our district at that hour), I plough into the second book. What I have not finished is carried forward till next evening. This way, the book I know I am going to like is always left out, and transferred to a residual pile which I will read when I have gone through all the other piles in turn. Thus, I know each day that if I am a good boy, I can reverentially reach a good book within the twenty-four hours, but that I am more likely to fail. But then I can look forward to that good book at the end of the session; anything up to a fortnight!

But this lucky-dip reminiscence is becoming a little labourious—as labourious as the reading itself. Let us, therefore, turn to the 17 books which were placed upon me the other week by Mrs. Nixon.

"*Old Man Ot*", by F. L. Green is a novel by one of the best novel writers in England. The book was first published in 1945; this is a reprint in the standard edition. The film was fine. The book is finer. Re-reading it now again, one realises how much even the best in cinema loses against the best in prose. It is partly a factor of time... The film goes too quickly. With a book, if it is really good, you can sit down a few pages, put it down, pick it up and read back, dip and taste the delicate flavours of prose and sensitivity. Thus, it is with F. L. Green, one of the most delicate, least ostentatious of present day writers.

The tribe of verdant authors is likely to be some what embosomed to the many young people who start their habits with English literature through the British Council Reading Room. There is, of course, Graham Greene with his tales of crime or pariah (or both). Lately in Singapore, the lay-out for a novel about this part of the world holds on his forthcoming programme. Graham Greene is generally regarded as one of the best writers in England alive to-day. He is very much the Londoner, a sophisticated representative of modern intellectualism in the better sense of the word.

F. L. Green already mentioned, also rates as one of the best writers in English. Less a man of the world, for the last twenty years he has lived quietly in Northern Ireland, where we ran into him (in fact almost ran over him in an armoured car) during the early part of the war. F. L. Green's experience, on which his novels are firmly based, includes an early life spent on all sorts of odd jobs in breweries and shipyard, theatres and hotels.

Yet is, the third of the verdant trio, Henry Green, who—three years younger than F. L. Green and a year later than Graham Greene—got the knowledge on which his novels are based from quite the other way round. From Eton, Oxford, and his family business, a big iron foundry in Birmingham. The other Green is professional writer, full-time. Henry writes in the evenings. He is also distinct

among living authors is the simplicity of the titles of his books, paralleled in the case of his style.

There are two books of Henry G. in this bag from the British Council, "Living" and "Loving". "Living" was his first successful book (published 1925); this is a reprint in a new edition from the Hogarth Press. It is the story of the Birmingham foundry which belongs to his family—but written through the eyes, ears and nostrils of the workers, their wives and daughters. It is moving, but quite unconvincing. The dialogue is genuine enough, Brown. But anyone who has worked in factories will doubt the validity of the characters in detail. It is an effort piece of fiction, shadowy fiction. By that mark it fails to be a first-class book.

Not so, though, the second Henry Green book in the same edition "Loving", first published sixteen years later. Here the author deals with life in an Irish country house. Partly seen through the eyes of the rich owners but mainly through the fingers and pulses of servants. This book is a masterpiece of conventional rhythm and gentle feeling. To read both books one after another, and sometimes mix them up together—the sort of thing you can never do at the films—is to realize the advance one writer can make by his own experience, developing mastery of his work. "Loving" is one of the best books of our time, though I doubt if many of the brighter students from St. Thomas' or St. Joseph's will really be able to understand all the delicate innuendo of social status as between kitchen-maids and waiters-maids, butler and footman and pantry maids. For even we who have been bred on the edge of drawing-rooms, have lived too late to know domestic service the way of our Irish great-aunts.

Rather in the same school of writing, as F. G. Green and H. Green and G. Greene—that is, with the toughness of everyday life and the dream of romance—here is a book by a writer quite new to me (Jack Connon). His "Kiddie's Luck" is a story of a working-class childhood in Newcastle-on-Tyne. It is well written and clearly the authentic experience of the writer himself,—in the opposite way to the manufactured experience of H. Green's first book, "Living". I do not mean that you have to go and experience a thing yourself to write about it. One can write of concerts without a note-stem. But if you are not a born writer it is easier to write about the things that you yourself have done in experience. Mr. Connon is not a born writer. But he is a natural descriptive writer of what he knows. "Kiddie's Luck" is one of the nearest descriptions of industrial poverty, without irrelevant miseries, as readable on the Bejaung as on the Tyne.

Almost the same sort of book is "A Neighbor See". This whisks us to Trinidad. The author, Samuel Selvon, is a Trinidadian Indian (apparently this is the correct term). Here again, the story of poverty and even squallor is narrated with insight, here in glorious dialogue in the strange sort of language the people apparently talk there. Mr. Selvon, however,—who is pictured with a positively caricaturing based on the back wrapper—is not so natural in his writing as his novel, Mr. Connon. The book starts splendidly. It ends up rather flat (apparently), in a fable dinner. There are long passages of philosophizing all of which should have been cut before the book was published. Even so, this is well worth reading for the dialogue and a picture of the West Indies from a different point of view. As an inhabitant of another colony one

must feel ironically amused by the publisher's blurb on the cover which says:

"Here is a book that strikes a completely new note in contemporary fiction. It is heartening to find that in any British colony a native voice can now be heard, particularly a voice of such peculiar sensitivity and charm, emanating from a young man still in his twenties."

"No Time to be Young" by Mervyn Jones, is another novel published just before the war, which deals with rich and poor internecine. I am beginning to be old enough to be embarrassed by some of the impetuosity of writers such as Mr. Jones who was born in 1922. Still there is stuff in this book, and every now and again (often enough) a flash of brilliant. Let me quote three bits:

On page 15:

"Later, I discovered that my grandmother had a necklace which he brought back from Central Africa. She kept it in her jewel-box and sometimes looked at it longingly. That had been the trip when she killed a lion and drove an anthropologist to suicide."

Again on page 24:

"When he was thirteen and Marceline twelve—the same age as me—he came home from school and showed us, with great pride, three football tickets to the Ben Cinema."

"How did you get them?"

"I won't tell you."

"We'll struggle you."

Fernand was a frightful coward, and always gave in at the first threat of violence.

"The school usher gave them to me."

"Where did he get them?"

"His daughter works in the lavatories at the Ben, see. He can get any amount, a few at a time, of course."

"But why did he give them to you?"

"I won't tell you."

"Kidd him, Marceline."

"He was taken cool out of the boiler. I saw him."

"Was you going to tell the head?"

"Well, I saw him."

"You're a snook."

"I'm not a snook."

"You're a dirty snook."

"It's the school cool, isn't it? It was my duty to tell the head."

"Then why didn't you tell him?"

"Perhaps I will."

"But didn't the usher give you the tickets not to tell him?"

"He just gave me the tickets."

"What did he say?"

Marceline changed the question.

"There are three tickets. We can all go."

"Go where?" ask Fernand.

"To the Cinema, silly."

"But they're my tickets."

"You can't go three times", I said.

"We might feel Mademoiselle once, but couldn't do it three times. Besides, it would be the same film." "I don't go at all."

"You won't go?"

"No, my aunt wouldn't let me."

And finally on page 44:

"I should say now that Denis is capable of that quality which the existentialists make such a fuss about (only they make the mistake of thinking it universal); the quality is anguish. It is the corner of a pentadecagon of forms; personal consciousness and kindness to people, and endorsement to a principle."

By the way, do not think that I didn't read past page 44. I didn't fall asleep at all with this book, but read it right through.

I cannot find anything quotable in the latest novel by Douglas Reed, who before the war used to amuse us all with terrible prognostications, books called "*Security First*" and "*Disorder Abounding*". Unlike most prophets, nearly everything Mr. Reed predicted about Hitler and ourselves proved right. He has been left in the unfortunate position of being so correct that there is nothing more to say. As he clearly has an irrepressible desire to write, he has decided to direct his pen into the realm of fiction. "*Rule of Power*" could be set in two—with a fork.

An old-time, first book published back in 1916, is Gerald Bullett. His latest book "*The Trouble at Fancher Seven*", tells the end of the Virginia era, in that quiet, slightly dull way, we have come to expect from his kind of writer. Nothing happens. Nothing much doesn't happen. One reads along comfortably, comfortably with competent writing and just enough incident to make it interesting enough.

A very different lot of work is to be expected from C. S. Forester. He never lets us down for action, there more, the blood and thunder roar in his "*Eleventh Hourblower*" (must say I thought he had exhausted Hourblower). This everybody thought Sherlock Holmes had died on an absolute alp until Conan-Doyle resurrected him a decade later. And Diane Nellie Malles had in fairly far, well remembered that she became practically a private resurrection. Anyway, let Hourblower, who was last heard of in an ageing poor suddenly appears as "*Lt. Hourblower*". The cleverness of Forester is that he writes these stories with background, and as well as the sea he keeps on sending ships shore for early heat-ups, during expeditions. We get both ways, thank you.

In "*Crispin's Day*" we peer in the dimension of air. The author, pilot R.F.C., tells in fictional form, the story of a raid. I do not think it was particularly well told; but it is interesting reading, especially for the schoolboy age. So much for the male novels.

* * * * *

As always I then reluctantly turned towards the women. I never have been able to enjoy the intimate domestic novels of so many present day lady writers, though I take Jane Austen and the Brontës. In "*Pile Offshore Light*," Pamela Franklin breaks off that sort of groove with an ambitious story. Yet there is something uncomfortable and rather faintly

prodigious about this tale of a ballroom inspired American politician on the Riviera. Still, the writing is good enough to keep one peering away in the hope that it will add up to something important in the end. It almost does!

"Winding Ways" by Winifred Peck, "White Wings" by Elizabeth Goudge and "*Easy Carmichael*" by Margaret Kennedy, are typical novels of the feminine class. They never shall ring much of a bell with me—but will, I now, exactly suit Miss E. and Mrs. A., no doubt. Margaret Kennedy is a particularly easy writer to read. But even the reviewer of her name closes one of my eyes (though not necessarily in sleep).

A rather different note is struck by Ursula Koir in a story about China, called "*The Sun Behind Me*". It isn't at all well written, some of it is rather painfully lame. Still, it is readable—especially if you keep on looking at the photograph of the author on the wrapper!

I am sure that Margherita Laski, daughter of famed late Professor Laski, and a friend of mine of Unluckydays, will forgive me if I do not describe her as a lady writer. In "*The Village*" she is thoroughly solidly with a devoting, if slightly superficial analysis of the class situation in an English village—it sounds Cotswold. There is an amazingly written description of how a middle class girl falls in love with a working class boy. It fades away at the end. But then so many books do!

Miss Nancy Mitford, with whom I became acquainted at a later date on the fringes of better-grade Puddington, would certainly not forgive me if I did not describe her as a lady writer. But even though she rates Housmans, and though she writes about the aristocracy exclusively, she manages to be devastating in "*Love in a Cold Climate*". She is one of the few women writing to-day (Elizabeth Bowen is another) who manages to install humour and wit into their stories. This is a delicious tale. Even if you do not want to be bothered with her shrewd analysis of the differences between French and English sex morals, you can enjoy every page of it for what it is: tricky fun!

Agatha Christie has reached the stage where one thinks of her in no other term than as the best living writer of detective stories apart perhaps from Sweeney. "*The Body in the Library*" is one more of her brilliant jobs of crime writing. We also appreciate Mr. E. B. Ponder, author of many good thrillers. His new one "*The Golden Dagger*" is first-class in its kind. John Rhode produces a steady stream of better class mystery stories, is merely at his second best in "*Dr. Condemned's Lesson*". Even though on incidence stretches one belief, the whole thing goes with a swing, it is no good a way of wasting evenings as any other.

With John Gurney we come to a rather more sensational type of murder writer. He wastes no time. There is murder and heat-up in the first chapter and it keeps breaking up to the last. Purely comic stuff. No good for insomnia! The sort of book that is probably more popular than almost any other in the Reading Room.

The most popular of all is Peter Cheyney, and Mrs. Noel knows perfectly well that if she does not include now Cheyney in my list as book money I shall write nothing. This time it is "*Don't Get me Wrong*"—a smashing tale of Mexico with Lemmy Caution at his dauntless. You cannot go too wrong if you read this at one lying.

Also, Peter Cheyney is dead! For one reason I thought A. E. Coppard was dead too. I remember, in the mistaken days when I thought I would become a writer, reading some of his delicate stories in one of those rather select, handsomely bound editions which were so much a feature of the libraries in England. He is a writer of the older schools, where it is the sentence that counts, and the thing to be practitioners about is not the characterisation but the punctuation. Now comes a collection of his supernatural stories under the title "Fearful Pleasures". From the foreword we learn that Mr. Coppard is alive and thriving in that lovely village of Dunsen, Essex. For the connoisseur of good English "Fearful Pleasures" is a pleasant as well as more fearful reading.

Last of all in the fiction is "Wings of Serpents" by Katharine Susannah Prichard. Miss Prichard is regarded in Australia as one of their top-notch writers. I enjoyed two previous books of hers "The Flouring Millies" and "Gullies Miller". (I wrote about the latter here some months ago.) Her latest book is the sequel to "Gullies Miller", set again in the gold-fields of Western Australia. But I found considerable deterioration in this sequel. The setting and the people maintain their golden-age authenticity, but there are pages and pages and pages and pages of political stuff. Not only do we have to follow the hero preparing in detail the phenomenology of his left-wing speech. We then actually go with him to the political meeting and hear him deliver the whole speech all over again in public. I just could not go on reading it! Try your luck.

Miss Prichard gets a good head in a pamphlet called "Australian Literature 1800-1950", published by the Melbourne University Press. This is a competent survey, though I shudder to tell you that the author's name is H. M. Green. We had better leave that before we get into another trouble. Another book about Australia, named "Australian Setting" by George Farwell, is a pleasantly written account of a continent which contains all the climates and most of the civilised places in the world. The photographs are good; though they do not reach that level of luxury achieved in the last Gazette, where a new launch was illustrated twice—once from each side.

Nearer to Borneo, "Dance over Asia" by Richard Calley, who recently visited Sarawak with the UNESCO mission. One of his photographs shows two Kapangs with the caption:—

"The Dancers of Borneo still have the reputation of being head-hunters."

Hilts is a nice fellow. He has a C.R.E. and is a good journalist, science editor to "News Chronicle", most intelligent popular newspaper in U.K. Journalism is essentially superficial. Even someone as serious as he makes about one mistake or misemphasis per page. Still, this is a readable pamphlet. Its progressive mood will fit Sarawak's case.

There are several other pamphlets in this lot. I cannot make a great deal of the "Paper New Guinea English Course Primer", but I like the pictures very much. So did some Nanyika and Kalia who saw it. The Director of Education might now to have a look at this booklet and see if something of the same sort may not be applied here.

Another pamphlet, "Modern Speech Teaching" describes the right-ear method of teaching, specially designed for schools in Malaya and Java and based on mistakes that people in this part of the world make in English. This seems a useful and stimulating publication. School teachers in Sarawak would be well advised to acquaint themselves with this method.

"Ready for School Libraries" is another useful pamphlet. The list of books about cultural history and science is particularly helpful. I commended this to Mr. Thomas, in connection with their science scheme, and the Development Secretary for his plan to extend science education in the colony.

I do not quite know who I should recommend to read the pleasant and delightfully illustrated book "From Day to Day in the Infant School". I think Mrs. Fox out at Sunnyside, with her delightful understanding of the young, might be one of the first to sponsor it.

But I must admit that I felt a certain atmosphere of threat when I reached the pamphlet called "Museum Centre Equipment". I decided not to be mixed up in it, merely pass it over to K.I.V. Another little pamphlet called "Serving the Young" is no doubt valuable material to people like Mr. Tom Crosswell and Hugh Hickling but could well be distributed to other Kataris and youth leaders. It consists of letters to the editor of The Times on a subject recently before us in Kuching in the form of boys and girls week.

And still in the boys and girls class, there is the first rate new edition of Mohan's Kuchingpedia. First rate, that is, for ordinary educational purposes. You must not be too pedantic about it. Otherwise you might be upset to find that Sarawak only rates five lines in the entry under Borneo, although Borneo owns a separate entry on its own account. Mr. F. W. Roe may also be surprised to learn that a most important product of Sarawak is silver, while Mr. H. W. E. Miller may be edited to learn that gatta (pyralis) could second to sage and before rubber.

The evergrowing body of amateur photographers in and about Kuching will like the 1951 Photography (Sarawak), a thorough and helpful publication, with a choice picture facing page 195A. Which reminds me— isn't it time we had another photographic competition here, based on a wider selection than the one previously sponsored by the Borneo Company?

And perhaps the most astounding publication of the whole lot is "Smashers' London". There is nobody quite like Smashers. His guides are the streets of Europe. It is now unbecoming to open this one, any page, and get to phone every Londoner known and known or distant and remote. It is all here Wapping to the Tate, Tower to Grosvenor. Bless you, Mr. B.

Finally, I must admit some mystification at the thirty-seventh publication in this lot. It is a handsome book about the Mersey Tunnel, apparently by something called the Mersey Tunnel Joint Committee, in connection with the Festival of Britain. They seem a bit late in coming up for air!

It so happened that having finished these books very late last night actually, I was wandering about the house drenched in doctored prose, when I came

upon a Penguin paper copy of "Reverend's End". This supreme story by E. M. Forster, was first published in 1920. The prose is much the same as the prose of A. E. Coppard. And though the writer is a man of male sensitivity his kind succeeds that of Margaret Kennedy or Pamela Frankau by many verities. I opened it absently in the middle and read that wonderful passage where the dying Mrs. Wilson suddenly leaves her home to the German girl, but her handly suppress the fact in the completely natural compromised British way. Then, still in an early morning class, I turned off the radio and came upon Sir Thomas Beecham introducing some of the music of Delius. I had E. M. Forster in both eyes and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in both ears. Quite so, added in that sort of happiness which one feels too seldom, the happiness of great art. More than that one cannot expect to find even once or twice a year in the books that flow through any library. It was the quiet happiness also of knowing that I had, dash it all, done the right thing by all these 37 books. So an ounce again up to sleep quota, stuffed for the next bag. By your most, British Consul, 48, if you wish.

WWT

The following are the full titles of the books reviewed by MCT above:

GRONCH, F. L.
GRONCH, Henry.
GRONCH, Henry.
GROHMANN, Jack.
GRIFFIN, Samuel.
GRIFFIN, Morgan.
GRUBB, Douglas.
GRUBBS, David.

FORSTER, C. S.
LIGHT, Howard
FRANKU, Pamela
FIRE, Wendell
GARDEN, Charlotte
KIMMICK, Margaret
KIRK, Cecelia
LARK, Marguerite
MITHUNA, Nancy
CHRISTINE, Agatha
PETERSON, E. R.
RICHIE, John
CHERRY, Ann
CHERRY, Peter
GORTMAN, A. E.
PETERLIN, Katherine B.
SANDERSON

PROBATION, Changes in

[illegible]

Extracts from District Officers' Reports, First Quarter, 1952.

First Interview

Figure 1. The effect of the number of trials on the number of correct responses. The number of correct responses was significantly higher for the 10 trials condition than for the 5 trials condition.

Mr. Cheong Kuan Kong was elected Kapitan China for Batu Kaman to replace his father Mr. Cheong Jin Cheong who died recently. Mr. Cheong Kuan Chin was elected Kapitan of Sonok vice Mr. Luen Ho returned.

A few applications for land for building new shops along Maitang Road were rejected as it was considered unnecessary to have any more such shops to cater for the small number of people residing in that area.

Five native prisoners approached the Prisoners Board and stated that they wished to embrace the Christian faith (Roman Catholic). The Board, before giving any decision regarding this petition, referred the matter to the Secretary for Native Affairs, who informed the Board that he could see no reason for preventing them from so doing, as they were old enough to decide and make their own choice of religion provided that the Superintendent of Prisoners gave no objection.

Harvest of paddy in the district was begun towards the end of March, and from reports so far received it is feared that the crop this year is not expected to be a good one, owing to the prevalence of frosts.

A petition by the public was sent to the Hon'ble the President, 1st Division, in March, drawing Government's attention to the bad condition of the Han-Kyong Road, and requesting repairs be undertaken.

Throughout the district people were busy with their taxes, weeding, protecting, and harvesting their pail. Harvesting was well under way by the end of the quarter. Harvest time in the district as it is throughout the world, is a time of happiness for the fishing community, even though the overall picture for the district is not encouraging and the total production is likely to be appreciably less than last year.

Owing to shifting cultivation on hill land, in the upper reaches of the Shalung and its tributaries the soil is getting progressively poorer. Some of the worst land is reported to be in the areas of Khamjong, Mapu, Koping, and Yema. It is stated here the people's land is so poor that nearly every year they have to borrow land from Daxuak living on the Kalimantan (Indonesian) side of the border in return a certain amount of rice either in cash or kind has to be paid each year.

Worthy of comment is the fact that there appear to have been no "black months" this year. In explanation it should be stated that there is usually a quiet season of a month to two months when most of the public are hard at work on their farms and the government offices have a much slower period in which they are enabled to tidy up the previous twelve months work and prepare for the exceptionally busy period after harvest. This con-

as stated above there has been no rest, the office being just as full as at other times of the year, most of the work being Land and Surveys business, probate and minor disputes (most of the Land and Survey business being concerned with Chinese affairs).

Trade at Telok has not been so brisk and some shopkeepers in the area were talking of closing down and returning to Kuching if things did not look up soon. In contrast trade at Pongshan Area was exceedingly brisk, principally in the import of sundries and cotton goods from Indonesia.

There was a slight but marked trade recession during the quarter. Money was not so plentiful. This situation was probably contributed to by the preoccupations of the indigenous peoples in their harvesting which prevented them from coming down to the business and thus curtailed retail trade to some extent. In addition considerable numbers of Dayaks are applying for licences to start trading on their own account in village shops. These shops have so far met with some success and the movement is increasing. So far there are hardly enough of these to constitute serious competition to the established business but there seems little doubt that they will do so one day as witness the strenuous efforts by some Chinese to break into Dayak areas and snatch this budding enterprise. As retail trade in this District is almost entirely a monopoly of the Chinese a little healthy competition is most desirable and this trend is not being discouraged.

Prices of primary products (excepting padi and rice) dropped considerably throughout the quarter but so far little hardship is apparent. It is sufficient however that some speculators in pepper have received a timely warning.

The Chinese community have harvested considerably less padi than last year as most of their efforts have been concentrated on pepper and rubber in spite of widespread and repeated warnings from Government to make food crops a first priority.

A further mile and a half of the Seruan-Ruching road was surfaced with stone chippings and back-drawn during the three months under review. That part of the road which is not surfaced suffered very severely during the rainy season and at times was passable only to lorries with exceptionally high clearance and robust springing. In parts even as a foot path the road was almost impassable.

LOKUM DISTRICT.

The Dayaks were generally busy on their farms and the office was fairly quiet during the quarter.

The harvest has not been as good as earlier reports had indicated. By the end of March both hill and swamp padi were being harvested and it is estimated that roughly half of the padi in the District had been harvested by that time. The hill padi this year is in better condition than last year, but as previously reported the amount planted was less than in previous years. Swamp padi has, in the main, been a failure partly due to heavy winds and rain during the time when the ears were forming. This made the padi stalks bend and the ears were then attacked by mice. Tempes and empangas have also attacked the swamp padi. Much of the swamp padi has also turned out to be 'wupa' and some has also failed to ripen.

There have been reports of increased activity by Indonesian Police patrols on the border, and the Kuching route into Sarawak is now used very little due to the difficulties the smugglers experience avoiding these patrols.

Trade has lessened slightly due to the decrease in the price of rubber but rubber tappers and owners of gardens are still able to make a good living. There has been no decrease in the price of price goods in the bazaar.

There are no large employers of labour in the District and there have been no labour disputes during the quarter.

SECOND DIVISION.

MEMORANDUM AND LUDOK JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

Further to my remarks on Pongshan's decisions in my last report, I now find some Pongshans have for many years been hearing criminal cases in which they have jurisdiction, such as contempt of court, assault, theft and even abortion. The fine for the latter crime is \$25.00, though some Dayaks I spoke to did not even seem to realize abortion was a crime. Looking through the Native Court Files (Bagians) I note there is a great divergence of fines from area to area. For speaking ill of someone the fine varies from \$2.00 to \$24.00; for removing from a long-house without permission in one area the fine is originally \$7.50 and in another \$21.00. In some cases, when the Pongshan has settled a fruit garden or boundary dispute, he has ordered a fine to be paid to Government.

Although it has often been mentioned before, as a result of travelling the ulu Ai, I was once again forcibly reminded of the large amount of goitre cases there, especially amongst the women and old men. I wonder if the reason active men are not usually affected is that they work a lot in the jungle where they eat jungle fruits and often drink water from creeper, while the rest of the more sedentary part of the population will not include this.

The members of the Local Authority claimed that the members have developed some peculiar ideas as to what their powers are and as to what their job is, and in a result they have been getting exasperated if Government does not agree with their views in matters over which they have no jurisdiction. Until the Local Authority shows itself more responsible and stable the District Officer will act as Chairman and give it his close attention. It is hoped this will only have to be a temporary arrangement.

It is regrettable that no translations of the Local Authority Ordinances have been made to counteract these peculiar ideas that have developed. It would surprise the members to find out what a small part of the Ordinance is devoted to education, when in their meetings this aspect of their work takes up at least 80% of their time.

Generally speaking throughout the whole area the padi has been growing better this year than last. At the same time it is the period before the harvest when so much can go wrong. Many Dayaks who were frightened to try out rat poison in good time are now regretting this when they see the damage to their almost ripe padi and some say they have burnt their houses and will use rat poison in good time next year. This is especially so in Sebayan

and Lingga where promising crops were ruined by rats.

Bill padi in the upper areas is much better this year than last.

In the pepper experimental plot at Engkidi most of the vines are blooming with flowers.

Nearly all done in the Lingga rice area some pepper vines. In a rather half hearted way many of the Dayaks are planting pepper in the ulu Ai.

The new layout for Bakong Bazaar is nearly completed.

Fewer land applications were put in this quarter than last.

The carpenters were all sent to Selassau to pull up the wotering bridge over Sungai Gulu Besar. It will be rebuilt slightly upstream of its old position.

Part of the commercial wharf at Lingga collapsed on 27th March at 4.00 a.m. Prompt action saved it from being washed out to sea. This wharf was only completed on May 12th, 1961.

The Engkidi commercial wharf finished in December 1960 has had to be closed for repairs. It had slid down about a foot towards the river.

The construction of 4 Junior Service and 1 Native Officer's quarters in Keningau is proceeding smoothly as is the new hospital ward and isolation block.

SARAWAK DISTRICT.

Padi is coming along quite well. Unless bad weather comes along also, there should be a better crop than last year. Harvesting has just begun up river but the swamp padi is, for the most part, more than a month from harvest.

Miss E. S. Andrews has come to Belong on retirement. Her "retirement" seems likely to be a long one and she is already hard at work teaching at St. Augustine's School.

Fr. Scott came to St. Augustine's to assist Fr. Basil Temenggong. Fr. Scott has had considerable experience in Malaya.

KALIAN DISTRICT.

An appeal from the District Native Court was heard in the Resident's Native Court in February and another two in March. In two of these the decision of the lower Court was upheld. The most interesting case concerned a taping of farming land below Sarawak which had originally been tilled by Serus who had subsequently been converted to Islam. On their death the land reverted to their Malay descendants and has been farmed by Malays for some considerable time. The Appellant a Dayak, of mixed Dayak/Serao parentage, claimed the land on the grounds that on a person being converted to Islam he lost his right to inherit property from his "hupit" ancestors. This was obviously a lost case and had Appellant won many more Dayaks claiming Serao descent would have laid claim to one time Serao farming land now held by Malays.

Data Abang the Taly of Sarawak has tendered his resignation, he has been in Government service for more than 45 years, and will be long remembered by the Ulu Ai (Lubok Antu Dayaks) both for his ability and his patience.

The Kabong Malays began "Tengreh" fishing in January. Catches were poor at first, but improved later.

Meetings of the Malay and Dayak Local Authorities were held in February. The Malay Local Authority is still wavering over its previous proposal to require a pledge from the parents of children admitted to Local Authority Schools to the effect that their children would remain in school for a period of four years from the date of entry failing which the pledge money would revert to the school fund. This proposal has met with opposition from the people, but I feel that if a parent really intends his child to be educated and not merely looked after until he is old enough to tap rubber or work on the farm he would have no hesitation in depositing \$10.

Mr. Ong Chai Seng was elected as Kapitan Cina Sarawak at an election held in Sarawak in February. He replaces his brother Mr. Ong Oh Tien who had requested permission to retire on account of old age.

The Nyabau padi has suffered heavily from rats, but elsewhere no plagues have been reported and the padi is generally good. Lubok Nilong has been practically free from rats. The farmers in this area, Dayaks and Malays, are remarkably receptive to Government advice and used poison methods of clearing and laid out poison early. Dayaks and Malays are co-operating well although a little more money could be shown by the Malays in building their share of the roads. This must be one of the very few places where a Malay family has built a deer in a Dayak farming dumps.

THIRD DIVISION.

Sera District.

No serious crime has come to light during the quarter. Gambling amongst the Chinese is, however, as vile as ever, if not on the increase. As a result, the Officer Superintending Sector and myself raided a gambling den at a shophouse at No. 11 Island Road at the end of February. It was a clean-cut case in which about sixteen people were caught red-handed.

A minor "riot" broke out at the Ben Cinema on the 7th January, 1962, when a section of the audience became disgruntled at being shown only the first half of a serial film. They demonstrated against the management by throwing chairs about the Cinema. Fortunately no one was hurt and the police soon cleared the hall. All chairs in the cinema as well as those at the "Outbay" are now securely fastened to the floor.

A small wet paddy irrigation project at Perans, Datang Igan, has been started. A level survey of the area has been completed and the construction of the irrigation channels is about to commence. The area will be irrigated by means of the Country Visitor pumping set installed in a boat. All the labour for the construction work is supplied and paid for by the owner of the land, a Chinese padi farmer. The area is a good one and can easily be extended in time to come to irrigate nearby Dayak padi land.

As reported in my last report practically no Chinese have planted padi this season (1951-1952) and I very much doubt if many can be persuaded to plant for the 1952-1953 season.

Amongst the Dayaks the 1951-1952 harvest has been reported as follows:—

Penang's Nanta's Area :—(Hawing Assam and below)—Much damage by rats and therefore early harvesting. Persons from the area farming near the Bejing Delta report a good harvest.

Penang's Saluan's Area :—(Bangai Assam). Those up-river report a good harvest, but at the Nanga a poor one is expected.

Penang's Area's Area :—(Upper Igau). With one or two exceptions, a good harvest is reported.

Penang's Golan's Area :—(Lower Igau). Very poor and in many places non-existent. Rats have done much damage, but also in this area, the working of timber is a big attraction.

In spite of the drop in the price of rubber and pepper, trade still appears to be brisk in the bazaar. The demand for shophouses (of which it would be reasonable to say there are sufficient now in Saluan) increases rather than decreases. During February five shophouses have realised over £100,000—this is an increase of £5,000 per lot on prices obtained at the end of 1951.

LOWER BEANG DISTRICT.

Though there was a drop in the price of rubber the Dayaks appeared to have had quite a prosperous quarter. There were not a great number of Dayaks down during the quarter. Though for the Dayaks at Serikin in early January there were huge crops. Most of them have been busy harvesting during the latter half of the quarter. Two Dayak areas were travelled by the Cadet Officers. He reported that in one area he visited the Dayaks appeared to be paying too much attention to pepper growing rather than working and tending their padi fields.

Rat damage to crops though not so bad as last year was the main complaint. The Agricultural Assistant travelled with the Cadet Officer and gave what advice he could. There have been complaints that Dayaks from other districts come over to hunt in the Ulu Jelan areas without asking permission from the local headmen. Dayaks from this district are probably visiting other districts for the same purpose, but it is feared there may be cases of accidental shooting which are liable to cause serious bad feeling between neighbouring areas.

There were heavy floods during January and February in the Mata river. At one time the water was five feet up the office steps. The empty wireless station was nearly washed. The level of the river permitted boat traffic only between the bazaar and Government buildings until the end of February when the paths became usable once more. It was not possible to tap rubber in that area during that period.

Nearly all the barungas of the Mata-Dare and delta area were visited by the District Officer during the month. All seemed quiet and peaceful. As mentioned in the previous quarterly report a great many Malays and Melanese are earning good money with the timber companies.

Towards the end of the quarter more fish began to appear in the markets with a welcome reduction

in price. Halls for Chinese barungas and tongkangs continue to be built at Bejing. In spite of the drift of labour to the timber companies another dipsey was had.

In spite of the fall of rubber and pepper prices the Chinese continued to be prosperous.

The allocation of blocks under the rubber planting scheme got under way but came up against the very high prices the Dayaks were demanding for settlement of their tenable rights.

There was local regret that the authorities were unable to approve the application of Dr. Wong To Hoo to practice in Serikin.

The bulk of the hill and swamp padi had been harvested by the end of the quarter. It is regretted that there is much less average under padi this year than last. This is due to the high prices for rubber and pepper. Reports from Mata and Dare of the harvest are not optimistic. Neglect on the part of the former rather than lack of propaganda is considered to be mainly responsible for this.

The Field Assistant estimates there are 400 acres of pepper amounting to nearly 571,250 vines in the Serikin sub-division, at a recent count. About 1,250 pikuls of white pepper and 142 pikuls of black pepper have been obtained during the quarter. The A.D.O. Balingian reports that banding propaganda areas for the guanine ground. The pepper vines which are just beginning to bear will see the growth of the flowering pepper export trade.

The Divisional Agricultural Officer visited the district in regard to the black planting of rubber scheme early in the quarter. As previously mentioned the scheme is meeting with some snags. If the Dayaks are holding out for excessive sums they will be informed that the land has been inspected by the department and that unless they settle soon with the Chinese, the Government will have to step in and the result will quite probably be a much lower valuation than that offered by the Chinese.

The A.D.O. Balingian reports that the planting of fringe trees has continued and this fruit is now giving a characteristic part of the Beringan scene. Demand for the fruit seems to have been estimated and the price of the fruit has fallen heavily with orchards still laden.

A successful Raguwa was held at Serikin on January 24. The Constabulary Band under Capt. Basset was a great attraction. The crowd at Serikin for the Raguwa was said to be the largest ever seen here.

MIRAH DISTRICT.

"Berkah" ceremonies were held at Kuala Oya in the late February and at Kuala Mahak early in March, being attended by the usual crowds who combined it with a family picnic on the beach.

Harvesting of both hill and swamp padi was nearly completed by the end of March. Reports indicate a fairly good harvest, though in some Dayak areas hill padi suffered from the depredations of pests, and some swamp padi was spoiled by floods in January and February.

The Pechawa at Skapan on the Mahak river have obtained a very good crop of swamp padi; but the Melanese of Balingian had a poor harvest owing to pests.

Applications by Melanau for new sago land continue unabated.

The Agricultural Field Assistant was occupied throughout the quarter on and survey work in the Narak and Bakong areas on the Oya river and in further investigations in the Jahan/Pemat area between Mukah and Oya. This valuable work was completed at the end of March and it is hoped that he will now be able to pay more attention to the sika areas.

Owing to the shortage of ripe sago, the local sika will have all the labour they can absorb, while other Melanau have gone further afield to work, usually also to sawmills. Owing to their preference for work in the neighbourhood of their homes, even for far less money, any measures of local employment produce numerous applicants.

As the labour market as a whole, and the timber trade in particular, can absorb the temporary local surplus, the only hardship caused is by those that are remiss in sending part of their earnings to their wives.

KAPIT DISTRICT.

Two Cantonese, who were known as the heads of the gambling firms were found guilty and sentenced to six months imprisonment. On appeal the sentence was reduced two months. They are said to have had unlimited funds for expenditure and would have regarded a fine as a simple tax on their activities.

A fair amount of measles has afflicted children in many places and several rushed visits have been paid to far-off houses where children were reported to be dying.

A tour of part of the area between Song and Kapit has shown that the weekly visit of the Kuching Dispensary to Song alone is not nearly enough. The Iban people benefit but the Dayaks on the main river, and far up the side streams, are often in piteous case. The Kapit Travelling Dispensary reports very few patients in the Buloh and its time would probably be better spent downstream as far as Ngamoh with less frequent visits of the Buloh.

Kapit Bazaar is in a bad state. The removal of temporary shops in February made a great improvement but the contractor for drains started work only after Chinese New Year and until the drains are complete it will be impossible to clean the bazaar. Nightsoil removal will begin on contract in the second quarter when the difficulty will be to improve the habits of Dayak visitors.

There is unfortunately much delay in survey of land applied for because of lack of staff. Chinese applicants are seeking land near Song and Kapit and would take up large areas if they could, and had any immediate prospect of title. It is proposed to attempt a settlement of Dayak claims, particularly communal lands other than farming land, before any such areas are alienable. All Dayak rubber on the main river is without title and there is a great reluctance to take out title, pay quit rent or save for the land or crops properly.

Migrating pig and other game have taken heavy toll of crops lower down the Rejang since there have been no cartridges with which to protect the farms. Some doors in six Kathans have suffered a total

failure from bushak.

The Forester paid an extended visit to the Bah/ Sams Forest where the R.C.L. are working. He also visited Chinese logging areas in the Majong and inspected for royalty at Sang on several occasions. The R.C.L. have had a successful first season and their elephants, including the new arrivals from a circus, are doing well. The infant elephant, now over two months old, is also flourishing.

The main trouble during the quarter has been the shortage of shotgun ammunition. This is a particularly unfortunate matter when the harvest is on and the wild pigs are migrating. There are said to be plenty of cartridges in downstream areas and there is a rumour that they can be had near Belaga for \$2.00 each: if this is all true it would seem that the black market prosper at the expense of farmers and the tamed stock supply.

Pyngah Nylensborg of Saribas visited the district on 22nd February and called upon the Temeng-gong. The latter's daughter has now gone to marry the former's son. It is hoped that the son, who has been trained as a teacher, will eventually be able to take up a post offered by the Local Authority.

The Methodist Mission is developing rapidly. The Puanu School is going ahead for the term started just before Easter and the stations at Saaga Majong and the Melanau (Ng. Melanau) are also beginning to show life.

KUCHING DISTRICT.

The position as regards crime seemed to improve during a quarter. A successful raid on the Bazaar which caught a gambling session in full swing and resulted in a conviction undoubtedly did some good though it is too much to hope that the practice has ceased more than a setback. Four successful prosecutions for being in possession of opium and another one for brewing illicit arrak also improved the record. An ugly incident was a fortunately unsuccessful attempt to set the temporary bazaar on fire. The perpetrator remains undetected.

The most interesting matter which arose during the quarter was the claim made in Court by the coffee shop owner who was successfully prosecuted for keeping a public gaming place that he had paid the sum of \$50 to the Police Sub-Inspector for the right to play on the evening in question. He produced what purported to be I.O.U. slips signed by the Sub-Inspector in support of his allegations. This matter was the subject of a Departmental enquiry at the end of the quarter.

The harvest was beginning to come in towards the end of the quarter and present indications are that it has been a very fair one and the food position should not cause any special difficulties during the year.

During the quarter new procedure has been adopted which will simplify the machinery for dealing with applications to plant rubber, powers to give permission being delegated to the District Officer. This simplification is much appreciated locally.

During a tour of the Chinese settlements along the Rejang the writer was able to see something

more of the local pepper industry. There can be little doubt that a very considerable amount of pepper has been planted up in the District. The tendency is not so much towards large individual specialised pepper gardens as to planting up small patches of recent land in rubber gardens. There are few large pepper planters but a good many gardeners who have planted up a hundred or so vines. It seems to the writer that this crop-diversification is not a bad thing and it is impracticable for gardeners of this sort systematically to remove large areas of tropical forest for conversion into burnt earth. The practice has undoubtedly been going on for quite a little time to judge from the size of some of the vines seen.

FOURTH DIVISION.

MIRI DISTRICT.

The new Chinese Chamber of Commerce building was formally opened on 5th February by Mrs. J. O. Gilbert. A large gathering of Government officers, Sarawak Offfields Limited representatives and prominent traders were present.

The harvest this year has been good, and the Kolapans at Tiro and Kelabit report excellent yields. With two exceptions, the houses of Long-hulu Barai and Tani Rerach Duan, all Dayak houses in the Sibuti also had a very good harvest. With such good returns, it was a pity that the total average planted was less this year, chiefly due to Malays drifting to rubber tapping instead of planting paku.

The wharf at Berkenan was practically finished by the end of the quarter and work has commenced on digging the main drain around the shop lots. When this drain is completed, it will enable the back lots to be dried out and filling workers' cuttings. The slow progress on the construction work at Berkenan has been mainly due to shortage of labour.

More new shops have been completed at Beru Niah and there is now a flourishing business serving a wide area. The shopkeepers themselves have cleared the road trace in front of the shops and during this year Government will construct the remaining road, the drains and wharf.

BARAM DISTRICT.

All natives have been busy with their harvest, and comparatively few have been down to Marudi, except to buy guns and cartridges.

No less than 3 "perjanjian" scores were reported during the quarter. The biggest came from the Kelabins, who reported they had heard that there were 2,000 Bama in the Trusan, preparing to attack them. Fortunately, previous news of the score had been received from the District Officer, Lawas, and it was possible to reach the rumour quickly. It appears that some Muruts had heard on the wireless that re-inforcements were being sent to the Fuso Canal ("Trusan Saan") and assumed it meant to Trusan in the 4th Division. Such are the dangers of the wireless!

The other two scores came from the Iok in the Tajar, and the Bakong, but both were quickly dealt with, both proving quite groundless.

The writer, accompanied by K.O. Tinang, Kaling and Desser Ten Huk Siang attended the

Potom trading meeting in the old Baram in January, being away from the 15th to the 25th. The opportunity was taken to call at all houses in the Baram, where everything was found to be satisfactory.

The "urang nti" completed harvesting during the quarter. Panglima Lamsi of Long Tiro reports that his house has obtained practically no rice this year. The fields were first attacked by rats, and what rice escaped them, was later destroyed by "bengau". He attributes this to the fact that they have farmed on swamp land for the first time this year, having newly filled the jungle, and states that this always happens in the first year. He himself is determined not to be put off farming swamp land again this year, but intends also to plant some hill padi, just in case.

Perhaps Tama Ulong, of Long Terawan in the Tutoh, and Tama Wan, Long Wati, Apoh, both report that they have not even obtained enough padi for next month's seed. The whole crop was wiped out by "pengau" and "bengau".

The Bama are in the middle of their harvest, and reports from the Bakong have been uniformly good, as also from P. Moch's area at Papat. One or two houses in the Tiro report damage by rats, and insect pests, but on the whole reports are good.

About 50% of the Malay padi planted in the late season (over) is reported to have been eaten by rats, but 80% report good crops.

No meetings of the Local Authority were held during the quarter.

The Authority is going through a difficult period with its non-local teachers. The Government recruited Malay teachers at both Long Mok and Long Lamsi have resigned, and the second teacher at Long Lamsi has threatened to resign if a loan to rebuild his house at Labok Nihong is not approved. The teacher at Lappa Laja is also talking of resignation if his transfer to the Bakong is refused. It is difficult to blame these people too much, as they are, in commonness, living in the far old although a strange race, many of whom cannot speak their language. However, it will make the position of the Local Authority school very precarious for the next year or two, until sufficient local boys have been trained to take their place.

RENDUL DISTRICT.

Some progress has been made with the agricultural settlement scheme in the Sungai Sabaga area between Sungai Makat and Lumbong, as the result of a detailed survey during February by a member of the Department of Agriculture from Miri. He has reported that there are about 500 acres of good wet paddy land, out of a total of about 700 acres. In addition, there are about 1,000 acres of good high ground, suitable for the growing of such crops as cotton, tobacco and fruit trees. Preparations are being made by the Dayaks in Baram Recharung to build themselves a temporary longhouse in the area, and to start cultivating these during the coming season.

Four houses in the Pandan River have asked for permission to fell old forest, and the Native Officer and Agricultural Field Assistant, who have visited the area, recommend that about 1,000 acres be felled. This is still being inquired into.

"Tin system" records are gradually being brought up to date as losses are stated.

A Mr. Rodney Needham spent a short time in the district during February, studying the Pumas and Pumas, with the result that he is convinced that, despite the apparent similarity of their names, the two people are distinct.

Possibly stimulated by Mr. Needham's visit, a Pumas headman from the Mawung, whose people disappeared over into the Tinjar two years ago, has now asked for them to be ordered back.

Orders have been issued for the painting of houses in Bintulu District and the work is now in progress. Ducks have also been ordered from the roads.

Most padi planters had nearly harvested their crop by the end of the quarter. Many have complained of damage done by pests, but the general impression is that the condition of the crop is fair to good, and in any case no worse than last year. The failure of the padi demonstration plot at Sungai Sengas is indeed a calamity. If late planting is the real reason, there would appear to be no excuse for this, and I trust the Agriculture Department will institute an inquiry into this matter.

Extraction and royalty figures continued to break previous records. The extraction of round logs just short of 5,400 tons showed an increase of about 50%, over the figure for the first quarter of 1951, while over the same period the extraction of belian stumps rose from 2½ million to nearly 3½ million. As a result the royalty figure amounts to approximately half the total for the whole year 1951.

The Borneo Borneo Corporation made two big shipments of logs during the quarter, one to Singapore in early January and the other to Hong Kong in late March. A total of 470 tons were exported. In February two directors of the Corporation visited Bintulu and it is understood that they were satisfied with what they saw, though they appreciate the difficulties that have still to be faced, particularly in respect of labour.

Logging and Lumber had a precarious existence. The Australian trade recession, and consequent restriction of credit, virtually ended the Australian demand for timber at the beginning of the year. The company were able to dispose of most of their stocks on the Hong Kong market at a much lower price than they had expected, and for the present they have practically ceased operations. The reason for this is partly that a decision is wanted by East Asiatic whether they will merge with Logging and Lumber and take over their assets. A senior Danish member of that firm, Mr. Black, spent most of March in Bintulu District. I am informed that he was quite favourably impressed, and that he intends to recommend that East Asiatic come in. A decision is not expected, however, for two or three months.

Early in the year conferences were held with representatives of the Sabah and Tabin belian traders, who had complained that the new forest policy of allocating one area to one licensee was driving them out of business. The Assistant Forest Officer went to a forest conference in Kuching in February, primed with the administrative point of view, and it has now been decided to exclude belian

from the licenses granted over large areas. The interests of the small men will therefore be protected.

Despite the extraction and royalty figures given above, towards the end of the quarter a recession in the timber and stimp trade became apparent. Prices of belian timber and stumps began to fall, and dealers represented that they were unable to dispose of their stocks within Sarawak. Other timbers showed a similar tendency. But relief was brought in the last days of the quarter by the arrival of an architect and a contractor engaged by the British Malayan Petroleum Company on a very large construction programme at Seria. Contracts were signed with those of the Bintulu area for the supply of timber, amounting in value to over \$500,000, over the next nine months.

The Sarawak Steamship Company have given extremely poor service between Kuching and Bintulu since the beginning of the year. Most of their ships seem to have been in dock, either for annual survey or for repair, and the Bintulu run almost invariably seems to suffer. In the first six weeks of the year the Company provided only two ship-masters of cargo from Bintulu to Kuching, and the *Que Tjing Suen* has now replaced the *Timbell* on the Kuching-Bintulu run. The local traders are extremely dissatisfied with the service, or lack of service, provided, and it is generally felt that the Company might at least give some indication of the plans, if any, that it has made for improvement.

FIFTH DIVISION.

LIMBANG DISTRICT.

During the quarter, the Authority showed remarkable progress and the whole of Limbang District including the interior area has been included in the Authority.

The new office building of this Authority is under construction and will be completed sometime in the early 2nd quarter.

The new schools have been opened at the following Kampongs under the Authority during this quarter:

1. Kampong Rangan.
2. Mile 8th Panchanan Road.
3. Kampong Gulong.
4. Kampong Merawan.
5. Kampong Bumbun.

and the number of schools which are now under this Authority is 15.

The message of thanks for good services rendered by this Authority, from His Excellency the Governor, was delivered to the members in the meeting held in January.

The weather has been fine for the swamp padi during the early quarter, but due to the late planting and destruction of rats and Kuching (Kupangant), very little surplus is expected. The rice pines and information introduced by the Agriculture Department were much appreciated by the padi planters, but too late and were available when the crops had been destroyed. The hill padi is expected to be a little better than last year, owing to the fact that last weather prevailed during the burning period. Swamp padi planted by the Kuching along the "Paga Begangas", Selakang, has given very poor

yield largely owing to depredation by rats soon after harvesting.

In general, the crops of padi in the Pahi Division, division Pahi at Bangkita, Batu-Duman and Uluong are reported good, but the crop of padi sown by various Kumpang people in the Bangkita area are not in rotation and are likely to be poor and destroyed by Kumpang. This is due to the fact that the date of planting was not fixed. It is hoped that date of planting for 1931/2 will be fixed.

LAWAS DISTRICT.

Health has been good during the quarter and two advantages were enjoyed by the people as a result of the District Advisory Council meeting held in October, 1931. One midwife has been engaged to work under the supervision of Dr. Eva McLaren, and her salary being paid by the members of the Chinese Community.

The Bureau Evangelical Mission plans has been of great assistance in bringing serious cases down from Lung Semaduh to Lawas Hospital, a distance of about 7 days if covered on foot.

The harvest in the whole District of hill padi had been completed and the wet padi remained about quarter not completed. The Murut as well as the Merapuk Kadayan had enjoyed good crops in both their hill and wet padi.

The Dusun and Banjar crops of wet padi seemed unsatisfactory due to the padi being badly damaged by rats, drought and also salt water from the river; although zinc phosphide was widely distributed and effectively destroyed the rats, no Banjar farmer has so close to the Kumpang the farmers did not use the poisons being afraid that their fields, ducks etc. may die, and so they used the poisons only on their farms which are far from the Kumpang.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RUSS
NE
SAR
P.O.
2nd May, 1932.

To the Editor,
Sarawak Gazette,
Kuching.
Dear Sir,

A few months ago the Agricultural Department made an appeal in this Gazette to all members of the public to co-operate in producing first class rubber, first class sugarcane, etc., for export. It will pay, if the articles exported are really good; and the country and the people living in it will profit by it.

Lately I happened to overhear a conversation in a Chinese shop about producing sugarcane. Sugarcane has a low price compared with last year and the quality did not improve.

Why do people not produce 1st class sugarcane? It all depends on the drying process of the "kumpang". To produce 2nd quality is not difficult. Try it in the sun and put it into a gunny. It is ready for export. Whilst 1st class sugarcane requires more work. The price difference is however only about 25 cents per pikul.

How can we force people to produce 1st grade sugarcane? The solution seems very simple. The

export duty for the 1st class should be 25 (two dollars) less than that of the 2nd class. The sugarcane dryers pay \$1.25 more for labour per pikul to produce 1st class cane. 50 cents per pikul they would thus gain, and everyone will see to it that his cane is Number 1.

Yours faithfully,
F. ANSARA.

Manuring Tapioca and Sweet Potatoes in Sarawak.

By H. W. R. MUIR.

There is no doubt that the outlook for Sarawak's rice supplies for the next few months is not at all bright and many people are very wisely planting some vegetable crops to help take out such rice as they can get.

Sarawak's people are fortunate in that the country's climate makes it possible to grow reasonable crops of tapioca (ubi kayu, banyang) and sweet potatoes (kayu) by simple well known methods at any time of the year. Possibly these vegetables do not form such an attractive food as rice but they are a food that can be used as a good substitute for at least part of the rice in the average Sarawak diet; it is certainly better to eat some tapioca and sweet potatoes than to go short of food.

Whilst both tapioca and sweet potatoes will grow on even the poorest of Sarawak's soils they do not generally yield really good crops unless adequate manure is used. Organic manures give excellent results on both crops but supplies of good organic manure in Sarawak are generally inadequate and it will be necessary for many gardeners to use some imported artificial manures.

Too often artificial manures do not give very good results in Sarawak if they are broadcasted on the surface in the normal way; if a heavy rainstorm follows the application then the fertilisers are washed out of the soil before the crop can utilize them; if a hot dry spell follows the application then the crop is often badly scorched. Experiments with the object of finding a method of using artificial manures on tapioca and sweet potatoes which is suitable for Sarawak conditions have been in progress in Field Experimental Garden for sometime. A rather unusual method has been evolved that is now regularly giving excellent results on both the crops; under favourable conditions the results have sometimes been spectacular. The actual mixture that is being used is supposed to be accepted practice but the fact remains that it is proving extremely effective under Sarawak conditions. A great deal more work remains to be done to ascertain the best times and rates of application of the manure but the need to produce more food in Sarawak is so urgent that it has been decided to publicise the principle of the method and to suggest that gardeners should make some experiments themselves with regard to rates and times of application of the mixture.

The method can be used in conjunction with any of the systems of tapioca and sweet potatoes cultivation generally used in Sarawak.

The mixture used is made up of equal parts of sulphate of ammonia, powdered rock phosphate and

powdered limestone infinitely mixed together. The mixture should be used within a day or so after it is made up as it tends to lose ammonia if left in the open.

The mixture is most easily applied to a tobacco or sweet potato crop soon after the cuttings have been planted on the ridges and have just started to grow. A small hole about two or three inches deep and about an inch wide is made near the cutting with a pointed stick. A small quantity of the mixture is placed in the hole which is then closed with earth. The hole should be made just clear of any roots that have started to form; if it is too close the mixture may sear the cutting temporarily; if it is too far away the effect of the mixture will be delayed; about two inches between the cutting and the hole seems to be a safe average distance. As a rough guide to the amount of mixture to use for each hole the lid (the lid, not the tin itself) of a fifty cigarette tin should be filled with the mixture—this quantity should be adequate for two holes and actually corresponds to roughly three quarters of an ounce per hole.

One application of mixture by this method generally seems to be adequate for each crop but if an experienced gardener decides that a standing crop of tobacco or sweet potatoes is not making satisfactory progress another later application could be made in a similar way at approximately five foot intervals in the ridges.

Both the powdered rock phosphate and the powdered limestone are cheap materials; the sulphate of ammonia is rather more expensive than the other materials but even so the amount of the mixture used per hole is so small that the cost of using the method is low. No detailed figures are yet available but from the financial point of view alone the returns in the form of increased yields would seem to be highly profitable; more important still at the present time is that wide adoption of the method can mean a large and rapid increase in Sarawak's food supplies at low cost.

Supplies of sulphate of ammonia and powdered rock phosphate can be obtained from Messrs. Sarsco Company Limited or Messrs. Sims Darby and Co., Ltd. The Department of Agriculture have recently erected a small plant for the production of powdered limestone at Kuap (10th, mile Eschberg-Serian Road) and limited quantities of the material can now be supplied to the public at a nominal price.

Island Club, Sibu.

BOWLING AVERAGES FOR MAY, 1932.

Name	No. of Balls	Average	Handicap
A. Webb	36	195	- 92
J. G. C. Kirby-Turner	60	176	+ 3
D. Dickerson	18	172	+ 12
G. B. Newton	21	151	+ 13
D. F. Henderson	20	138	+ 33
E. P. Spencer	5	135	+ 36
D. Scott	6	130	+ 36
J. J. Harward	12	129	+ 46
Mrs. Waite	6	145	+ 48
D. Mansfield	17	142	+ 57
J. Lee	6	141	+ 59
D. C. White	4	136	+ 65
B. Smyth	6	133	+ 70
A. E. Proctor	4	128	+ 78

MOVING BALL FOR MAY, 1932.

Name	Handicap	Net Score
E. P. Spencer	36	372
Mrs. Murray	100	348
J. G. C. Kirby-Turner	3	327
D. Mansfield	37	323
B. Smyth	70	214

The Sarawak Club.

BOWLING AVERAGES FOR MAY, 1932.

Average	Name	Highest Score	No. of Balls
Ladies.			
170	Mrs. S. F. Smith	153	11
126	Mrs. G. T. Myles	160	7
108	Miss E. McLeod	132	10
80	Mrs. V. Nicol	127	7
Mrs.			
156	A. D. Dunt	202	7
145	M. Steele	175	8
145	T. V. Courtney	172	6
142	G. T. Myles	202	10
141	G. F. S. Wood	173	11
137	G. S. Smith	156	9
134	J. Nicol	190	11
131	W. L. P. Soeban	147	4
121	P. F. S. Spencer	150	6
121	G. F. Wright	154	8
121	J. M. Barley	153	11
120	R. J. A. Lee	118	5
119	M. B. McCabe	132	5
114	C. J. H. Blake	127	8
104	G. M. Cass	135	5

BAR BOWLS COMPETITION.

Name	Score	Handicap	Total
Ladies.			
1. Mrs. G. T. Myles	125	25	308
2. Mrs. S. F. Smith	141	31	172
3. Mrs. V. Nicol	101	68	169
4. Miss E. McLeod	96	35	131
Men.			
1. G. M. Cass	265	134	399
2. C. J. H. Blake	261	99	360
3. G. T. Myles	227	97	324
4. G. S. Smith	212	84	326
5. W. L. P. Soeban	203	73	322
6. M. B. McCabe	240	91	371
7. G. F. S. Wood	210	58	328
8. J. Nicol	206	89	327
9. M. Steele	203	37	240
10. A. D. Dunt	204	35	327
11. P. F. S. Spencer	208	87	326

Onions, Bombay	..	..	..	£ .25
Onions, local	..	..	..	.50
Peas, Bengal	..	..	..	.40
Pis (White Giant)	..	..	..	.50
Peas, black, Indian	..	..	..	.40
Tomatoes (local)	..	..	..	.40
Yams	..	..	..	.20
Cucumbers (local)	..	..	..	.40
Capers	..	..	..	.25
Chilies (red)	..	..	..	1.00
.. (green)	..	..	..	.80
Shallots, imported	..	..	..	1.00
.. local	..	..	..	.40
Tomatoes, local	..	..	..	.40
Tomatoes, fresh	..	..	..	1.20

TEA—

Tea, Lipton per lb.	..	..	..	2.70
.. Chinese per packet	..	..	..	.80

COFFEE—(per kilo)

Java No. 1	..	..	..	2.00
.. Java No. 2	..	..	..	1.50

FRUIT—

Pineapple	..	per kilo	..	.15
Pineapple	..	each	..	18 to 20
Papayas	..	per kilo	..	.10
Papayas	..	..	..	.30

BENEDICES—

Banana	..	per 10 square piece	..	.20
.. Cane (white)	..	per piece	..	.10
.. Cane (yellow)	..	..	..	.10
Banana Oil	..	per tin	..	0.50
..	..	per bottle	..	.20

Charcoal	..	per kilo	..	110.00
.. wood-carved	..	..	..	0.50
Bamboo (Sibong)	..	100, 11, 11, 100, 10	..	50, 50, 50
Bamboo	..	per kilo	..	.50
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For Sale or Exchange.

Some books relating to Borneo for disposal:
 Hunter's British North Borneo; Collingwood's
 Reminiscences of a Naturalist on the shores and waters of
 the China Sea; Harrison's Borneo Jungle; Lun-
 holla's Through Central Borneo (3 vols.); Also
 Yule's Journals of Marco Polo, edited by Cordier,
 1905 (3 vols.). Would exchange for books on Borneo
 especially the following: Brooke's Ten Years
 in Sarawak; Howell and Bailey's Dictionary;
 Tappin's Letters of Sir James Brooke; Hadden's
 Borneo; Mack, White and Brown. Reply
 Moulton, Kuching.

PUSTAKA
NEGERI
SARAWAK