

Sarawak Gazette

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Obituary

George Edward Strickland

We regret to have to record the death in London on the 14th November, 1957, of Mr. George Edward Strickland, Attorney-General of Sarawak. He had been unwell for some time and last year he had a serious surgical operation which, it was hoped, would cure him but his illness recurred this year and his death followed upon a second operation.

George Strickland came from an old and distinguished Maltese family. He was educated at Douai and the Universities of Malta and Oxford and, at the latter, greatly distinguished himself by taking the degrees of B.A. and B.C.L. both with First Class Honours. In 1912 he was called to the Bar and practised in Chancery until 1928 when he was appointed Crown Counsel, Nipponland. In 1931, he was seconded to the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration in Britain and in 1942 became President of the Court of Appeal there. In 1943 he went to Tripolitania in the British Military Administration and in 1945 was transferred to Cairo as Legal Adviser, Directorate. In 1946 he returned to Tripolitania as Legal Adviser and remained there until 1948 when he joined the Hong Kong Planning Unit in London before going to Hong Kong as Chief Legal Adviser to the British Military Administration. On leaving the army he was given the honorary rank of Colonel and was appointed Solicitor-General, Hong Kong, becoming King's Counsel in 1952. In October, 1952, he was appointed Attorney-General, Sarawak, and in December, 1953, was appointed Queen's Counsel in Sarawak.

As a lawyer, George Strickland was very able. He had a powerful and acute mind which dove rapidly to the root of a problem. With his usual energy, he was not content merely to deal with the work put before him but he covered the whole field of law in Sarawak seeking improvement. A great deal of the work in connection with the new Constitution was done by him and he put in hard and laid solid foundations for the preparation of the Revised Edition of the Laws. He was a valued Member of Supreme Council where he was fertile in ideas and mature in counsel.

Whatever he did, whether in his work or in his leisure pursuits, he did with all his energies, determined to give the best that was in him. Vitality and exuberance were his most notable personal characteristics.

His passing is a loss not only to the Government but to his many friends in Sarawak and elsewhere. His wife and son must be greatly grieved and we extend our sympathies to them.

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The Sarawak Gazette

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1957

Quotation

"I am disturbed with the kind of world we live in. I am 32 years old. I have children and grandchildren. As I look at all the children of the world, I am shocked and horrified at the waste of materialism that has engulfed the world." Mr. William Grogan, International Vice-President of the Transport Workers' Union.

Progress in Local Government

The coming month sees two further changes in local government. One is following Kuching's lead by having its Council elected directly by secret ballot and Bua will hold elections for its re-constituted Council. The changes are significant and important. In fact we are not sure that local government is not the most important thing going on in Sarawak today. People who have been accustomed to think only in terms of their kampung are now beginning to realise that their kampung is much affected by what happens in their District and that ultimately the whole country is one. The constant meeting and working with people of other races results in a better understanding of them and, it is to be hoped, a sympathy with their problems. Moreover, responsibility breeds responsibility; people begin to realise that everything must be paid for, that taxes are necessary and that it is not possible to do everything at once.

This is the way to true democracy. That word is much used and abused; it changes its meaning against its context in the manner and with the regularity of a chameleon changing its colour. Whatever it means it does not usually mean the paraphernalia of representative institutions, universal suffrage and the secret ballot. The Greek democracies had some of these and some modern states have all of them and no democracy. The classic definition is, perhaps, Abraham Lincoln's, but, well as it sounds, it is vague and scarcely stands examination. We prefer the words of Pericles: Because in the administration it has respect not to the few but to the multitude, our form of government is called a democracy. Wherein there is not only an equality amongst all men in point of law for their private controversies but in election to public offices we consider neither class nor rank but each man is preferred according to his virtue or to the manner in which he is held for some special excellence; nor is any one put back even through poverty, because of the obscurity of his person, so long as he can do good service to the commonwealth.

Notes and Comments

Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, former Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom in South East Asia, has decided that the income from the sale of his book — "Borneo People" — should go towards the provision of scholarships in Sarawak.

The money will be put into a special fund which will be used, initially, to provide scholarships for Iban pupils. Details of the scheme will be worked out at a later date.

The villagers of Samahong in the First Division now have for the first time in their lives a piped water supply.

The project, estimated to cost the Government \$91,400, took just over a month to complete. The water is conveyed to the kampong from a dam built across Sungai Sabana, by a one-and-a-quarter-mile long pipe, to stands in the village. The dam is capable of supplying between 60,000 to 70,000 gallons of water a day.

The work was carried out by the people of the kampong themselves, and with the introduction of this supply they no longer have to carry water from the nearby mountain stream to the kampong, a distance of about one mile.

The oil-rich Colonial Corporation Foundation of London has announced a grant of £3,000 (about \$45,000) to assist the work of the Sarawak Museum in 1958 excavations at Niah.

Receipt of this grant is subject to the approval of the Sarawak Government.

In conjunction with other aid the funds made available to the Sarawak Museum from the Foundation should enable a wide-scale extension of the 1957 work during 1958, and the removal of the whole upper part of the deposit in a systematic and thorough manner. This work should provide a valuable picture of successive human phases in South-East Asia. Hitherto no similar series of developmental phases has been found in clear sequence within one site; and in particular the early stone-age has not before been found in situ in this part of the world. It is hoped, therefore, that new light may be thrown on human evolution and cultural development from the 1958 programme at Niah.

An exhibition of Chinese scroll paintings sponsored jointly by the Kuching Art Club, Sarawak Museum and British Council, was held at the Sarawak Museum in Kuching from November 12 to 17.

On view were about 80 paintings, by almost as many artists—many of them refugees from the Chinese mainland. The paintings were collected together in Hong Kong where the majority of the artists are now living and the show was put together by the Chinese Art Club of Hong Kong and the Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals Organisation.

Excellent progress is being made with "Operation Pussuak"—a scheme established six months ago to assist the cat population in kampongs which had lost their animals as a result of the anti-malaria spraying programme.

Hundreds of kittens are being brought to the Kuching General Hospital and sent out in special cages to the "Cat Transit Centre" at Serem, and other places, for distribution to kampongs and longhouses.

The spraying programme had killed thousands of cockroaches and other insects which the kampong cats and rats had gorged on and died from the poisonous effects. But rats breed much faster than cats and soon their population grew and infested the kampongs. An appeal was then made by the Sarawak Government/WHO Anti-Malarial Unit in the First Division for kittens.

A rhinoceros-leopard is said to be on the prowl in the Sarawak area of the Second Division.

A number of Thais from Pado, Rebasan and Marong, near Saratok, have reported seeing it.

It is believed that the animal has killed five pigs and wounded several others as well as killed poultry.

The largest project yet to be undertaken by the Sarawak Government by directly employed labour, the Kuching-Samarang Road, is progressing well.

Large tractors, engaged in felling giant trees and clearing the dense jungle growth, have opened up an initial trail 100 feet wide and to a distance of about 12 miles from Serem.

Surveyors are following up, setting out the lines and levels to which the road is to be built.

Drainage gangs are rapidly laying steel culverts, some up to eight feet in diameter in the stream beds to take away the great quantities of water that will flow during the coming "lander" season. Rivers are now being spanned by temporary bridges.

Heavy bulldozers and scrapers are now operating at a distance of 10 miles from Serem. Graders are closely following, smoothing and shaping the surface. Then come rollers to smooth and compact the formation for the initial shoring of an 18-foot wide layer of stone. The stone, which is being transported by a fleet of trucks, forms the initial riding-surface and a distance of about eight miles has been completed.

A further surveying-team is setting out the final and precise alignment and levels of the finished road surface.

The present foot forms only part of the ultimate plan requirements for the scheme and more stone-crushing and road-making machinery is at present on the way from Britain.

Whispers have been heard in Sibu about gold in the Rejang headwater region.

Enquiries at the Geological Survey Department confirm that gold has been found during geological mapping in two places in this area but both occurrences are in remote, mountainous and sparsely inhabited parts of the country.

The discoveries were made in 1956, the first being made by Sarawak Government geologist, Dr. H. J. C. Kirk, who obtained a small quantity of gold dust from panning gravel in the Singa, a tributary of the Plassa which is one of the large tributaries near the source of the Rejang.

The second gold find was in a small vein in the Jelan River, draining off the Uluu Apas plateau into the Baram River.

Specimens of ore assayed 2.2 dwts of gold per ton—values too low to repay mining. The findings are reported in the Geological Survey Annual Report for 1956.

Last year, Sarawak exported 599 fine ounces of gold valued at \$41,737. The gold was from four mines in the Bera area.

A hall was established between the Church of England parish at Birtley, in Durham County, and the parish of Kuching through the Very Rev. Leslie L. Wilson, the Vicar of Kuching and a native of Birtley, whilst on leave in Britain.

Recently the parishioners of Birtley agreed to provide a scholarship for a Durak boy to attend St. Thomas's School, Kuching. The cost of the scholarship is £55.

In addition, members of the Birtley parish are planning to exchange correspondence with Kuching parishioners. It is proposed that a special notice board constructed by a cross and made from wood from the old Cathedral will be used for posting the exchange information.

A Larus water supply scheme is complete except for a certain amount of detail work, tests on the reservoir water, and the laying of distribution and service pipes.

The scheme, which has so far cost Government \$24,000, involved the construction of a heavy concrete gravity dam about 15 feet high, 54 feet long and 12 feet wide at the base built across the Sungai Selu-Ating. The reservoir has a capacity of just under 800,000 gallons.

A scheme to provide villages in the Kuching Rural District with a regular supply of local and overseas publications is to be put into operation from January.

Sixty-nine schools, Dayak and Malay, will benefit from the scheme, which does not cover the area in the immediate vicinity of Kuching town.

The Chairman of the District Council, Mr. Austin Coates, explained at a recent Council meeting that he was seriously concerned about the intellectual isolation of teachers and other educated people living in the remote areas. In distributing informative reading material and good pictorial magazines, the Council would be helping to keep such people more in touch with what is going on in other parts of Sarawak and in the outside world.

A reception was given on the evening of October 22 by the British Council at its Library in Kuching for a visiting historian from London, Professor Graham. The Library is an attractive place at any time but it might have been a little noisy for a cocktail party. However, no one was seen to prefer the books to the cocktails or conversation.

On October 25 Professor Graham gave a lecture on "The Great Age of Sail" in the upper gallery of the Museum. The lecture dealt with Britain's development as a maritime (and hence, Colonial) power. It was a little disappointing since Professor Graham did not choose to say anything which a well educated school boy could not be expected to know.

The Postmaster-General has kindly supplied an answer to the question of why postal rates were raised and why all the differences in the rates were necessary. This information published in the local press in reply to a letter to the Editor is very helpful. It would be still more helpful if such simple and informative explanations of, to the uninitiated, such arbitrary decisions could be given before, or when, the decisions are being made.

The Sarawak Government intends to block a "loophole" in the law by which certain firms, involved in the import and export business, are avoiding payment of either income tax or trade licensing fees by using "front" companies.

The method adopted is to form a limited company to carry out the importations and exportation of goods on behalf of a firm which is not a limited company.

The limited company sells the imported goods to the firm at cost and buys the goods purchased for export at such a high price as to ensure that the company makes little or no profit. Thus the limited company makes no profit on the goods imported or exported and is not therefore liable to pay income tax.

On the other hand, the firm makes the profit on the goods imported or exported by the company but is not liable to pay any fees on the goods imported and exported as the company was the real importer and exporter.

The Bill amending the Trades Licensing Ordinance seeks to remedy the position by enabling the Collector of Income Tax to deem a firm which gets the financial benefit from imports and exports an importer and exporter even if the firm uses a limited company as a "front" to get round the provisions of the Ordinance.

Two "loan" Bills are to be introduced at the next session of Council Negri.

The first—the Local Loans Bill—makes provision for the Sarawak Government to raise loans in this country.

The other—the Loan Bill—enables Government to raise a loan of £2½ millions either in London or in Sarawak or partly in London and partly in Sarawak for the purpose of financing certain schemes in the 1955-60 Revised Development Plan.

The Wild Life Protection Bill is for the constitution of Wild Life Sanctuaries.

Unlike National Parks, which are intended for the education and recreation of the public, the sanctuaries are intended as a refuge for wild animals where they will be quite undisturbed.

From the date of its constitution, the Sanctuary, its produce and everything in it will be the property of the Government and it will be administered by the Chief Game Warden. There will be, generally speaking, no rights in it except those rights which have been recognised and specified in the order of its constitution, but if it includes a Forest Reserve or Protected Forest, the ordinary management of the forest is not prohibited.

The Bill declares certain animals, because of their rarity, to be "protected" and forbids the hunting, killing or capturing of them without a licence, which may only be granted for a scientific purpose.

The following are the protected animals (Malay names in brackets):

Eggs (Baring apak); Baring lima singgih); Long nosed monkey (Kasau); Orang Belanda); Orang utan (Malak); Rhinoceros (Badak); Nanyang pigeon (Kasau); Lesser Adjutant Stork (Banggai); Short's Stork (Banggai); Brown-winged tern (Baring laut, Kuala biman); Black-naped tern (Baring laut, Kuala biman); White-breasted Sea Eagle (Baring lang laut); Grey-headed Fishing Eagle (Baring lang laut); Reef Heron (Upoh laut).

The export of apes and monkeys, bears and deer is also forbidden except under licence.

Customs Officers carrying out a routine patrol in the Sempoa area (about five miles from Kuching) on Friday, November 15, found their way barred by a number of Chinese with shotguns. Two shots were fired in the air.

This convinced the Customs Officers that there was an illicit still in the vicinity, but being outnumbered they withdrew.

The next day, accompanied by a party of armed police, they started out at 8 a.m. and after several hours walking arrived at the Forest Reserve and there they found fresh tracks in the jungle. They followed these tracks, which were often quite confusing, for about half an hour until finally they came across a stream and saw a huge still with hundreds of old nipah sugar tins scattered around. Stacked near a fire-place over which was a kuali, were eighteen 44-gallon drums of molasses mash, all ready for distilling. There were also 15 four-gallon tins of nipah sugar mash and at least four gallons of high spirit (arrack).

It was clear from an inspection of the site that the illicit distillers had been carrying on their trade for one or two months, and an inspection of the drums showed that they had been repaired after having been cut at a previous Customs raid.

The amount of mash totalled 850 gallons, sufficient to produce 65 gallons of arrack on which the duty would have been 18,500 at 28.00 per proof gallon. This amount of liquor would be the equivalent of about 50 cases of whisky or gin.

The still, drums and mash were ordered to be destroyed.

A 21-year-old Malay, who saved a small clerk from drowning in December last year, was on Friday, November 15, presented with the Royal Humane Society Bronze Medal and Certificate by the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. J. H. Ellis, at a parade held in Miri.

The Malay, Jemel bin Rajah, was a sailor on the "Rainbow", a Sarawak Government launch, when he rescued the postal clerk, Mr. H. C. Gough, in Miri waters.

The following is an account of the incident:

At about 6.30 a.m. on December 27, 1956, the "Rainbow" left Miri River to cross the bar at the entrance to the river on its way to the Miri mouth. On board were a few Government Officials including Mr. Gough.

The sea was unusually rough that morning and, shortly after crossing the bar, the waterfront window was smashed in by heavy seas.

On her return journey two hours later the vessel was struck abeam by high waves at the bar entrance and listed severely. Mr. Gough thought that the launch was about to capsize and jumped overboard before the vessel could be righted.

Taking a lifebuoy, Jemel went to the rescue of Mr. Gough in spite of the severe weather prevailing and the risks involved for even the best of swimmers.

Meanwhile, the launch was tilted with some difficulty and tilted down to the fishermen who were lifted on board.

Jemel is now working with the Posts and Telegraphs Department at Miri.

That monthly language broadcasts should be supported by Radio Sarawak was the opinion of the First Division Advisory Council after a lengthy discussion on the subject. The Upper Sedong Division Council had raised the question of Radio Sarawak introducing broadcasts in the Berayak (Lanai Dayak) language.

The Chairman, Mr. Williams, in agreeing with the Council's opinion, pointed out that the need for minority language broadcasts would only be temporary as the more education advanced the less would be the need for them.

Arrival and Departures

Arrival

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bowering
(Mr. Bowering is a newly appointed Engineer in P.W.D.)

By air (Singapore/Sibu on 24.11.57).
On first appointment.

Departures

Mr. C. E. Bower

By air (Kuching/Singapore on 24.11.57).
Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom prior to retirement.

Mrs. R. J. Bower

By "Nahy" (Kuching/Singapore on 24.11.57).
Proceeding home to the United Kingdom.

Ourself as Others see Us.

Sarawak: From White Rajah to Plural Society

A LETTER FROM WILLIAM A. HANNA* TO THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FIELD STAFF

Hon. Kees.

August 3, 1957

Every Sunday supplement reader a generation ago knew quite a good deal, if not about the Horned Rajahdom of Sarawak itself, at least about its ruler, the White Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, his vivacious wife, the Baroness Selva, and his three beautiful daughters. But current readers of Sunday supplements or even of more detailed literature probably have heard little about the new State of Sarawak. Since July 1, 1946, a Crown Colony within the British Empire, Sarawak is the scene of what seems to date a successful effort at guided transition from colonialism to eventual independence.

The signs of change were conspicuously evident about two months ago (May 19-25) when there was convened for the first time, in the capital city of Kuching, the new Sarawak Council Ngugi (State Council). On it sit Chinese bankers, Malay nobles and Dayak tribal chieftains, side by side with British colonial officials. The Council is soon to organize itself to assume legislative responsibility—under the British Governor—for a state with a population of 625,000 people (including 1,800 Europeans) and an area of 47,290 square miles.

The signs of change are every day apparent to any visitor to Kuching. Once a remote and sleepy Borneo river settlement under the benign but Victorian patronage of a British Rajah, Kuching is now briskly converting itself into a progressive modern city. Recently acquired landmarks, counterbalancing the Rajah's 19th century palaces, fort and government buildings, include a splendid Anglican cathedral of advanced modern design, an excellent hotel, government housing developments of bungalows and apartments, spacious hospitals and schools, the complete broadcasting facilities of Radio Sarawak, and a new museum building that doubles the already extensive space of the old and serves as headquarters for significant anthropological and archaeological research. The city is populated by 56,000 Chinese, Malays, Dayaks, Indians, and Europeans who seem genuinely at ease with one another and do not seem to worry much about the possibility of interracial conflict and tension.

You hear quite a good deal of hazy reminiscence about the dynasty of these White Rajahs—Sir James, Sir Charles, and Sir Charles Vyner Brooke—who gave Sarawak its freedom from nearly brutal and

*Professor William A. Hanna is a member of the American University Field Staff who visited Sarawak and Brunei in May this year.

in start as a modern state. You hear also quite a good deal of sober discussion about the need for joint British-Chinese-Malay-Deyak effort to build up Sarawak gradually to the stage at which Crown Colonies status may safely give way to—what? Independence? Alliance with the nearby Federation of Malaya? Federation with the other states of British Borneo?

Discussion about the future status of Sarawak tends to be both objective and tolerant, whether the discussion occurs in British, Chinese, Malay, Deyak or mixed circles. There is as yet in Sarawak no political party formulating irrevocable demands; in fact, there is no political party. There are no slogans—"Sarawak for the Sarawakians," "Merdeka Now," "Go Home, Liners," or, for that matter, "The British Must Stay." Sarawak, it may be worth adding, has no public debt, no unemployment, no significant labour problems, virtually no pauperism, no personal income tax, little crime, and no traffic jams.

To be sure, all is not perfect in Kuching. There are troubles in the Chinese schools reminiscent of the beginnings of trouble in Singapore's Chinese schools several years ago. There are jockeying for position among Chinese groups more or less favourably disposed toward British subject status or support with Peking. (This latter faction is still small and quiet.) There are suspicions that the British favour and pamper the Malays, that the Chinese exploit everyone else, that the Malays want to enlist nationalist support from the Malays of the Federation, that the Deyaks may gradually awaken to the nationalist theory that the whole war was originally theirs and everyone else is an unwelcome interloper. But despite these undercurrents, and despite the ever-present possibility that other and more dangerous movements may develop momentarily, the present political and social condition of the State of Sarawak, like its economy, is distinctly healthy. The credit goes historically to the White Rajahs who ruled in such a manner that British prestige was firmly established in the area. The immediate credit goes jointly to a tolerant population and to an intelligent British officialdom. The latter, as many local informants point out, has kept quite a few steps ahead of public demand in conferring political and economic opportunity. In Sarawak the British have managed most skilfully to obviate public indignation over the downsides of change and to create, instead, a healthy public trepidation as to its speed.

Sarawak, now in the first stage of development, toward eventual self-government, has a new constitution, granted on August 3, 1956, by the British Crown. Under the terms of the constitution there have been created new municipal, district, divisional and state councils. The lower councils are basically elective, with representatives chosen by traditional group selection process rather than by ballot. The Council Negri is semi-elective, with 21 members elected from the divisional councils, 3 elected from the municipal councils, and 21 either appointed by the Governor or automatically designated by reason of official position. Legislative measures adopted by the Council Negri will be subject to the veto of the British Governor, but indications are that a practical working agreement will be reached as regards the Council's succession to a gradually expanding area of legislative competence.

The day-to-day administration of the state remains in the hands of a civil service headed by the Governor and his staff of Colonial Office officials. It is staffed at lower levels by Chinese, Malays, and Deyaks, with due regard for equitable distribution of jobs among qualified candidates of the different racial groups.

The new system, obviously, is not without its blunders. Members of the Council Negri, for instance, must serve on three or four other councils, down to the local level at which they were originally elected. They are already beginning to discover that the practice of self-government requires sacrifice of personal and business affairs if they are to attend the frequent meetings and to head the numerous committees. Deyak members of various councils unfortunately speak no English—the

language of the sessions. They have contributed more in decorativeness than in discussion and may soon tire of their role of window-dressing. Younger Sarawak groups complain that the indirect and complicated elective system, combined with the system of official appointments, causes the councils to be heavily loaded with the aged and the conservative. Reformers complain that even prior to the adoption of the new system the government afforded such opportunity for spoils and patronage that they had to be created a Commission for Investigation of Corruption. Many fear the activities of the Commission will increase, not diminish, as the new system comes more fully into effect. Still, in present-day Sarawakian terms, corruption is measured not in pounds—as compared with corruption, say, in nearby Malaya and even nearer Indonesia—but in units of the most famous local crop, i.e., peppercorns. Other political evils, to date at least, seem of comparable dimensions.

Sarawak does not yet have even the first symptoms of the political troubles that have recently developed in its northern neighbors. In the Sultanate of Brunei there has emerged a new *Petaja Rakyat* (People's Party) with rather extraordinary demands for "independence" and "federation." One reason, perhaps, that Sarawak does not have Brunei's political troubles is that it does not have Brunei's wealth—which leaders of the *Petaja Rakyat* seem eager to get their hands on. Even without Brunei's oil, however, Sarawak's finances are in good shape.

Sarawak's total state revenue in 1956 came to M\$21,443,343; its ordinary expenditures came to M\$143,170,603. It thus had a surplus of M\$8,272,740 for transfer to a special fund for implementation of its M\$100 million five-year Development Plan. Sarawak's annual surplus—a reliable item for the last few years—is likely now to decrease, just as Development Plan expenditures are rapidly increasing. The difference between Sarawak's revenues and its total expenditures is now being made up—and will probably continue to be made up—from the Commonwealth Development Fund. At any rate, the Sarawak Development Plan should be completed by 1960, with perhaps as much as 50 per cent of it paid for from local funds. The development projects, which appear to be going well, will some of them soon begin to feed money back into the national treasury.

In the meanwhile, of course, Sarawak may manage to strike it rich in oil, as has its neighbor, Brunei. Sarawak has happily developed its own small oil field in Miri, close to Brunei's Seria fields; it has poured a good deal of Development Plan money into explorations for oil elsewhere; it managed in 1956 to pump out 70,618 tons of oil valued at M\$1,755,046—but nothing to compare with Brunei's M\$11,719,589 oil field which Sarawak refined or reexported.

Until such time as Sarawak strikes oil in quantity—which all local Sarawakians trust may be soon and some believe may be expected momentarily—the state is dependent for economic development largely upon rubber, pepper, and timber. Pepper, Sarawak's number two product, deserves primary mention. It is a commodity peculiarly suited to Sarawak's soil and climate and to its Chinese and Deyak farmers. These pepper farmers tend their small holdings of an acre or two of vines with such devotion that their production per vine, per acre or per man far exceeds that of the competing areas of Malaya, India, and Indonesia. Sarawak since the war has captured the world—meaning, the American—pepper market. Black and white peppercorns, in quantities which would appear sufficient for any conservatively human consumption, make pungent the Kuching houses. (But Kuching eating establishments, "progressive" sometimes to a disappointing degree, dispense the imported—hence more elegant—Western

*Editor's Note. The Sarawak Government does not finance exploration for oil, this being carried out by the oil companies.

processed variety.) For the sake of the statistical check, it is worth reporting that Sarawak exported in 1956 some 18,818 tons of peppercorns to the value of M\$24,816.131.

Sarawak's number three export item is timber, cut from the limitless stretches of Borneo jungle. In 1956 exports came to 187,889 tons, valued at M\$19,064,435. The limiting factors on the growth of the industry and on the growth of permanent settlements on the land cleared by the industry are the non-inaccessibility of the western and mountainous jungle land, the prohibitive cost of maintaining even the rudimentary roadways built to bring the timber out, and the lack of any great population pressure to provide labourers and settlers. This latter deficiency, of course, could be remedied in conjunction with the overpopulated nations of Southeast Asia, but few expect that it will be.

Sarawak's number one industry is rubber. All local production is in the hands of small holders—no allocation of land for foreign estates having been permitted either by the White Rajahs or by their successors. Quality and quantity are far below normal expectation, exports in 1956 having come only to 41,334 tons valued at M\$46,615,641. The government is busily pushing a program of subsidised replanting and improved production methods. It will receive some little time, however, before the Chinese or the Malay farmer, let alone the Dyak tribesman, adopts precision methods to replace the present system of haphazard tapping of wild-looking rubber groves.

As part of its Development Plan, the government is also making energetic efforts to introduce diversified farming, to improve methods of rice culture and to introduce better strains of livestock. It is likewise encouraging improvements in the fishing industry, still largely unmechanised and confined to coastal waters. In these and other efforts, it is having to overcome public lethargy. Even though Sarawak is a lush country as compared with much of the area, it is still Southeast Asian and idleness. Overseas Chinese capitalists, for instance, seeking new, safe and profitable areas of investment, find Sarawak attractive but strangely limited in opportunity.

Regardless of such limitations, and as a result largely of the government's program, Sarawak in general and the city of Kuching in particular are showing the evidences of progress and prosperity. Kuching is provided now with adequate piped drinking water, electric power and telephones—facilities which in less remote and presumably better developed countries of Southeast Asia seem to be in chronically short supply. It has plentiful buses and taxis. It has few, if any, squatters. It has big new public housing developments which, if not yet adequate to meet demand, do supply quite a lot of modern bungalows and apartments at rentals that come, say, to M\$52 per month for a two-bedroom flat. Its shops are well stocked with local and foreign merchandise, including such items as pens, watches, cameras, typewriters, cosmetics, and carbonated drinks. There sell not so highly-priced luxury items, as is the case in various neighbouring areas, but at reasonable prices within the means of the local public. The principal bookshop offers a wide range of new and older publications; the British Council and the Museum libraries give excellent service to general and specialised readers. Kuching is a clean, well-shaded, cool, spacious, and attractively gardenised town, and it gives every appearance of being well administered.

The efficiency of civic administration extends, naturally, to social welfare and improvement projects. Hospitals, including a mental hospital and a leprosy centre, are handsomely built and efficiently run. Schools are receiving priority attention, government expenditure on education increasing from M\$1.5 million in 1953 to M\$5.5 million in 1956—a period in which enrollments increased by 10,000.

Sarawak's educational system, historically, has been based upon government-operated elementary schools for Malays and Dyaks, privately-operated elementary and secondary schools for Chinese students, and elementary and secondary inter-racial schools operated by foreign missions (principally Catholic and Anglican). The government has now greatly increased its allocations for government schools and has established new government secondary schools (English language) in the urban centres. It has also established a teacher-training college in Kuching—operating, incidentally, in the reconstructed PJW camp that was the setting for Three Corner House, Agnes Newton Keith's account of the Japanese occupation. It is sending Sarawak students abroad for further training—including teacher training—in Malaya, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

Thus by various devices, the government of Sarawak is seeking to bring the level of Malay and Dyak education up to the level which the Chinese had managed privately to achieve for themselves. By making grants to the Chinese schools and insisting upon greatly increased government supervision in return, it is attempting to select the Chinese curriculum to the new educational needs. The government is making grants also to mission schools—these grants also introducing problems of control. The development of a coherent educational system is far from easy and has led to charges of discrimination and favoritism; but educational facilities are expanding rapidly in present-day Sarawak and even higher education is no longer unknown. A few Chinese students have now returned from abroad with professional degrees; a few Malay students have left for extended study abroad; and the first several Dyak students have graduated—at least two having already experienced short periods of advanced study in the United Kingdom.

The differences and the rivalries among the various racial groups in Sarawak may well pose the most urgent problem of the near future. The distribution of population is: Sen Dawks (Iban), 34.8 per cent; Chinese, 25.6 per cent; Malays, 17.9 per cent; and local tribes other than Sen Dawks, 20 per cent. The Chinese control most of the business of the area. The Malays—the "compromised" group under the Rajahs Brooke and, now on, under the present administration as well—are in a position of social and political ascendancy over the local peoples. The Dyaks retain claim to the huge stretches of relatively underdeveloped land, although Chinese, Malays, and Dyaks share the small farms of the developed areas. The British, of course, control the administration.

Insofar as the various groups are considering the eventual status of Sarawak, there seems at the present time to be a considerable area of agreement, with realisation that in a state racially so divided and in a section of the globe politically so troubled, most groups may have to settle for second rather than first choice of alternatives. Complete independence, separate Commonwealth status, and alliance with the new Federation of Malaya are all proposed, but none is very seriously pushed. Many more people talk in terms of the federation of Sarawak with Brunei and North Borneo into a new alliance on the model of the Federation of Malaya, presumably with Commonwealth status.

The British, in general, are the most single-minded advocates of this solution and are working quietly and effectively to achieve it. The Chinese, most of whom would probably prefer separate Commonwealth status for Sarawak and British subject status for themselves, seem to realise that they are not in a position to dominate or to decide. They seem to feel that the best they can hope for is treatment such as the Chinese receive in the Federation of Malaya, and few of them seem inclined, as yet at least, to complicate the situation by manoeuvring with Communist China. The Malays, many if not most of whom would probably prefer affiliation with the Federation of Malaya, recognise that in British Borneo they are considerably outnumbered

by the Borneo tribes. They seem indignant, by such agitation for affiliation with Malaya, to call down upon themselves the discrimination which Southeast Asian nationalism deals out to immigrant minority groups. The Devaka and the other native tribes, as noted, are not yet politically articulate, but they may eventually become so. The British, to repeat, seem very clumsily to have calculated the various checks and balances, and the proposal of federation which they are continuously advancing makes a very great deal of sense from many points of view.

The concept of federation does, however, raise certain serious problems. First, is the problem of Brunei, by far the wealthiest of the states of British Borneo and quite unwilling to share its wealth with the others. The Sultan of Brunei, additionally, has historic claims to sovereignty over both Sarawak and British North Borneo. When and if federation is definitely scheduled, the question of paramount authority will arise. The course of legalistic logic indicates the return of sovereignty to the rightful heir of the Sultan from whom it was wrested. But Brunei has for the last century or more been the most backward of the states. It is still held in low esteem by large numbers of Sarawakians who remember the oppressive rule of Brunei in past centuries and the classical expeditions of Brunei in recent generations. Few Sarawakians would even now gladly acknowledge Brunei or Brunei's Sultan as the paramount power in British Borneo.

But despite the difficulties, sooner or later, the three states of Sarawak, Brunei, and British North Borneo will probably achieve federation if for no other reason than proximity to a large and involved neighbour—the Republic of Indonesia. Indonesian Kalimantan—the southern two-thirds of the island of Borneo, is at present no less disturbed than are Sumatra, Java, and Sulawesi, and the leaders of the British Borneo states are becoming more and more aware that the troubles might spread.

Communications between British and Indonesian Borneo are infrequent and jagged—none, of course, for the small but steady traffic of Indonesian smugglers and labourers and of Dutch fishermen, travelling between certain ports and along the jungle rivers and trails. The cities of Kuching and Pontianak, less than one hour's distance from each other by air and a few hours' distance by sea, are widely separated by communications and immigration obstacles. The extraordinary traveller who makes the journey by conventional means takes three days by air or several weeks by sea, proceeding via Singapore and Djakarta. Current information suggests the communications barriers more readily than do legitimate travellers, and the leading citizens of Kuching, for instance, are fairly well informed about conditions in Indonesia. They know that their neighbours in Indonesian Kalimantan are unclipping uprisings and hardships such as they hope they themselves may be spared, perhaps by slowing down the pace of *merdeka*.

On the whole, the leading citizens of the new state of Sarawak, as they contemplate their own political future, tend to take an unhappy lesson from the example of nearby Indonesia. They watch with some apprehensiveness the emergence of the independent Federation of Malaya. They regard the nearby state of Brunei as a special problem which they must somehow take the initiative in resolving if they are to achieve federation. They do not commit themselves as to their future status within or without the British Empire. But the feeling among the local people of all groups and the feeling between them and the British seems at present quite good. A visitor to Sarawak today comes away with the impression that in Sarawak British Commonwealth is likely to succeed British Empire, and, on the whole, smoothly.

Visit of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to Brunei

His Excellency's introduction to Brunei was almost literally dampening. After a calm crossing we were anchored off Tanjung Sapoh and at about 1.00 a.m. we awoke to hear suspicious garglings coming from the bowels of the *Zahara* and on getting up we found the boat listing to starboard and three or four inches of water in the cabins. Water was leaking out of a pipe which was broken underneath one of the beds in the cabins and it was not stopped until one of the sailors jumped overboard and put a plug of wood into the hole under the waterline. The pumps were then able to clear the water but for the rest of the night we kept waking up with ideas that the water was still coming in and we were destined for the proverbial watery grave. It was very comforting to be alongside Mr. Dayram's wharf at Maun the following morning and to find terra firma under our feet. This mishap over, we drove from Maun to Brunei town by car. The road was in good condition and it took us only half an hour to the British Resident's offices where the guard of honour of Brunei police were waiting to receive His Excellency.

There were many things to do and discuss in the office and the rest of the day was taken up in office work. A visit was paid to the Istana in the afternoon to call on the Regent and His Excellency talked with them for about half an hour. The *Zahara*, temporarily repaired by Mr. Dayram, arrived at the Residency steps in the afternoon and His Excellency was able to entertain the British Resident and other guests to dinner on board. The following morning was a great day in the Brunei calendar, the return of His Highness the Sultan from his successful tour of Europe. The Brunei weather did not co-operate at all, it was pouring with rain from the time the aeroplane touched down to the time when His Highness left for the Istana after the *Da'sa* Sultan had been read in front of the Brunei Government offices though the rain did not dampen the spirits of the people lining the route. His Excellency paid a call on the Sultan the following morning and had over an hour's talk with him about His Highness's visits to England, his discussions with the Colonial Secretary and other matters of interest.

Immediately after leaving the Istana our conveyance set out for Kuala Belait. A platoon of Field Force were going down at the same time and so they acted as an escort and it was a fine sight to see right Landrovers cantering down the Tutong Road. The Brunei to Kuala Belait road is obviously going to be very fine when it is made. At the moment after Tutong only the earth works are completed and in parts it is still rather dangerous, dusty, sandy and hot to drive on. Traffic is not encouraged to use the road there yet. At Kuala Belait His Excellency gave a cocktail party in the evening and toured the station on the following morning. He visited all the offices and discussed the developments and improvements which have been made recently. The new Post Office at Kuala Belait is a delightful building, very "Festival of Britain". It is an octagon and has an unobtrusive roof and "floating" stairs leading from the public parts of the building to the Postmaster's stronghold behind a glass screen. It is certainly according to the new developments in architecture though how this one will tone in with the rest of the town remains to be seen. The drive from Kuala Belait to Miri was also done easily and along well kept roads. The sandy surface was dry and firm under the wheels and the journey was made from Kuala Belait to Miri in about forty-five minutes. The Resident of the Fourth Division, Mr. J. C. B. Fisher, O.B.E., was waiting for us at Lutong with some more comfortable cars and His Excellency drove straight to the offices at Miri where a guard of honour was drawn up. After receiving the salute His Excellency presented the honours

medal and certificate of the Royal Humane Society to Mr. Jinal bin Ranaik for saving life at sea. Anyone who has been across the Miri bar in any sort of wind realises that a man who can leap overboard to rescue someone in those conditions deserves indeed the very high award that was presented.

In the afternoon His Excellency was able to visit the new low cost housing estate at Miri. There are ninety-two houses in semi-detached units, rather plain and stark but, at \$9,000 each, a very good buy. The future of this estate is not settled yet but it is to be hoped that it will be run as a model estate. After visiting this estate His Excellency drove out to Tanjung Lohang to see how the new secondary school was progressing. The site at Tanjung Lohang must be ideal for a secondary school; flat, airy, a view of the sea and plenty of space but the buildings are not yet more than a couple of feet high and it is hard to see how they will be ready for occupation by January 11. Still, everyone was confident that ready they would be. In the evening His Excellency gave another cocktail party in order to meet his many old friends and some of the newcomers to Miri. On the following morning His Excellency visited all the government offices and met all the staff of these offices in Miri. He was able to have valuable talks with the Resident, Fourth Division, and clear up many points which had been outstanding. On Sunday 17, His Excellency left by road for Anahim to have talks with the General Manager of the Brunel Shell Petroleum Company and then he flew back to Kuching on Monday 18. The Private Secretary was left to come back in solitary state to the Zohara. There was some misgiving about this, concerning the temporary patch which had been placed over the ship; but it held very nicely and furthermore a forty-bell anchored type fish was caught on a line over the stern of the boat. Anyone who doubts the weight of this fish may inspect the photographs which were taken at the time. It was four and a half feet long, twenty-two inches round the girth and tasted delicious.

Administrative Reports from District Officers for the first half of 1957

THIRD DIVISION

KAPIT DISTRICT

District Officer
Hermann Assan

Native Affairs

The padi harvest this year was better than last year. Harvesting ended by end of May. As it is customary after the harvest many "gawai" were celebrated during the month of June and much time was wasted in the preparation to these "gawai". Penghulu Kuflik and Penghulu Jagah Lapak both held *Gawai Kereyabang* which take many months to prepare.

To the Iban young men in this District "hajaja" (going abroad either to Sarawak or Malaya) is still the greatest and most consuming interest. As a result many young men came up to the Koba to apply for Certificates of Identity but when refused they just go without. It is estimated over one thousand young men left this District either to Sarawak or just "hajaja" somewhere in the Fourth Division where they feel "maka" is richer with empty hands. Their wives and parents used to come up to the Koba and request their return but their whereabouts are often not known.

On 13.1.57 Ranaik Kapan a house of twenty-five doors in the Nalikh under Penghulu Jenggeh's pogan was completely burnt down to the ground. As is usual the fire started in one of the adjoining "palabaha"

and quickly consumed the thatch walls spreading to the main longhouse and destroying the house in less than two hours. Most of the inmates of the house were away tending their farms and therefore little property was saved but there were no casualties. The Tsai Ranaik himself, who is an ex-Sarawak Ranger, was down in Kapit to receive his Commander-in-Chief's Certificate from His Excellency the Governor.

On 15th June, 1957, another longhouse - Ranaik Rangan-Pala Menna Ng. Iban - was also completely burnt down. Fire started from a "dapor" and, spreading quickly consumed the whole longhouse and most of the property was destroyed. There were no casualties.

Both longhouses received an immediate assistance from the Social Welfare and parcels containing clothes, etc., from the Kuching Division of the Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross. Both Sang and Kapin banjar twakaps generously gave clothes, plates, pots and other materials amounting to the value of \$23.60.

On 12th March, 1957, Penghulu Sanda's farm just below Nanga Meri was completely burnt down. Thirty bags of padi were burnt to ashes. The Penghulu was in the longhouse.

On the night of 29th April at about 1 a.m. Penghulu Hung Nyip's long boat which was tied to the banjar jukung was on fire and incurred a partial loss of property to the amount of \$300. The fire was put out by the Iban and banjar people with the help of the extinguishers. The Penghulu and his party had just returned from shopping in Sibu. The Penghulu's twenty-three door longhouse in the Lima was burnt down last year while he was away in Sibu shopping.

A party of Sarawak Rangers returned from Malaya on leave on 6th May, 1957.

Li. Francis Basking and Li. J. A. Wood, Army Medical Officer, arrived in Kapit on 26th May, 1957, and received ten men out of seventy applicants.

Kanyan anak Tsan an-Sarawak Ranger was presented with Commander-in-Chief's Certificate by His Excellency the Governor on 16th January.

T. R. Mamba with a party of Tsai Ranaik who organised a trip to Kuching have now split. Mamba himself now finds it difficult to stick to the old Tsan Tungga when the majority favour the new one.

In Penghulu Ukap the last "Tsai woman" who was also in Mamba's party is now in his dying bed. It is not thought that he will be able to cause any trouble in the Majang. He, however, has apologised to the Temenggong for the wrong that he had done. He put the blame all on T. R. Mamba and that he has been misled.

The Paman living above the Pelagus Rapids who have been to work Indian with hand saws, have returned since end of last year. They now know how to use the hand saw and are working below of various sizes in the Sungai Pak. It was not thought before that working below above rapids was possible owing transport difficulties, but now with the help of long boat powered by 30 h.p. engine this solves the problem. Mostly these Paman depend on working timber for their living. The timbers are purchased by the local Twakaps and as they are not cut to sizes, the price paid to the workers is at the mercy of the purchasers.

The Kayans in Penghulu Hung Nyip's area are busy making mats during the second quarter. Formerly this mat making was only confined to Paman, but now it is reported that Kayan women can produce even better mats. As a result the price of mats has dropped from seventy cents to forty cents per inch.

Many Kanyak young men at Long Jera came down to look for work during this half year. Their longhouse also serves as a resting place for the U.S.R. Kanyak who also come to Sarawak in search of work.

At beginning of the year frequent parties of U.S.R. Kanyak, usually ten or thirty together, came to Kapit. Most of them went down to Sibu where they worked

for about six months and then returned with loads of salt and clothing, etc. The number decreased suddenly in April. Later it was learnt that the U.S.I. authority at Long Nawaing are keeping guard on the border.

The Long Jawe Kayyah padi cycle of cultivation is very much earlier than the rest of the District. They burnt their farms sometime at the end of May while the Iban are busy attending to the "jawaik". The way Kayyah at Long Jawe are making use of their land appears to be curious but seems to be fairly efficient method of shifting cultivation. After burning their farms, they allow the grass to grow for about a month or two then both men and women will do the weeding first prior to planting (maga). In June they were half way with their planting while the Iban and Kayan have not burnt their farms. I was much impressed with the Long Jawe people's method of shifting cultivation. They seem to occupy most of their time in farming. They are certainly better farmers than the Iban or Kayan.

Malays

The present Malay Kampong houses are in rather bad condition. The scheme to locate this kampong further down river is in progress. Lots have been allotted. The Malays will commence building on lots as soon as compensation has been paid to owners of the land in the resettlement area.

The Kapit Malays are not padi farmers. They mostly are rubber tappers, river fishermen and doing odd jobs in the bazaar.

As elsewhere the number of Malays both men and women going to the mosque is on the increase. This may be due to more lectures in religious matters given by the present Tan Kampong.

Chinese Affairs

Kapit and Song buxian weikays are still maintaining their air of prosperity owing to the favourable price of rubber, damar and rattan.

Most rubber tappers and gardeners were hard hit. As result of constant rain during the second quarter retarding rubber production to an extent. Some tappers had to turn to other cash crops. Vegetables are seen in the bazaar in consequence.

More damar drying was reported but pepper produce had dwindled greatly.

In Kapit they had been without a Chinese Headman for sometime since the resignation of Kapitan Mui Thian, who left the district for Kluang. In February, 1957, Mr. Lee Kim Lai was elected. Mr. Lee is a local resident having been born in Kapit fifty years ago.

A block of six shophouses at Song was completed and was in occupation in April. This raised the total number of shops to twenty-four of which seven doors are subletted to coffee shops.

Mr. Ling Chai Tsh of Song has placed an order for an electric generator to supply electricity at Song. The machine is expected to be installed in about September and he may commence supplying electricity in October. Mr. Ling had already submitted his application for Government approval for operating this business.

Agriculture

Padi harvest generally were better than the previous year. One longhouse at Sama is exceptional. They all turn wet padi at Sungai Sama. This is I think the only house who got the best harvest this year. This house comprises twenty-four doors and twenty-six of able men left the house either to Seria or elsewhere in the Fourth Division leaving only the women to do the farm work.

There is a Government Agriculture Station at Song mainly concentrate on rubber nurseries under the supervision of Agricultural Field Assistant.

The Agricultural staff was increased by an additional of one Agricultural Assistant. His work mainly on new rubber scheme.

Great interest was shown in rubber planting during the quarter. There were three rubber big schemes and fourteen small schemes plus one replanting in this district. Twenty-five thousand stamps have been planted during the second quarter and the growth of the seedlings are promising.

Small holders continue to tap during good weather. The favourable price is attracting more people to earn their living by tapping rubber.

Pepper

The area of pepper planted is very small and due to the poor price and high cost of fertilisers, there is no tendency to increase the acreage.

Coffee

An interest has also been shown in coffee planting by Iban. Robusta is preferable.

At Nanga Majoeng the Methodist Mission still has an Agricultural Station under the charge of Mr. Thomas Harris, a Missionary Agricultural Officer. There is also a Government Rubber Nursery. The podagrace goats and pigs imported from U.S.A. do not seem to do well for two of the pigs and goats have died. But the podagrace cattle seem to be alright and were reported to keep regular supply of fresh milk to the students.

There is an Agricultural Station at Kapit. Scarcity of suitable land for this purpose being one factor. Mr. K. Koo the Divisional Agricultural Officer in company with the Agricultural Attache of the American Consulate General Office in Singapore, visited Nanga Majoeng on 17th March, 1957.

The Director of Agriculture and Division Agricultural Officer Mr. Kay visited Kapit on 11th May 1957, and left for Buloh to visit Temenggong Jajoh on the following day and spent the night there.

Public Works

The latter part of the period under review saw the construction of the Song Government Dispensary being finally put through. It was brought into use on June 11th, when it was opened for business to the public. The new Agricultural Field Assistant's quarters was also nearing completion. It is hoped that it will be ready for occupation in September next.

Forests

Forest Guards Nawi and Jauwani were transferred to Sibu in May and were replaced by Forest Guards Awang Mordith and Waini from Sibu. They are mainly concerned with collecting royalties from the two timber firms working in this district, that is, Lee Song Co. and Kho Gek Kee Limited.

During the first six months, that is, January to June, 8,385 logs and 130,180 tons of hard woods below were delivered to Sibu.

Medical

In Kapit the static Dispensary treated a total number 3,281 cases and inpatients total fifty-eight. There had been a good crowd of patients coming for treatment and the rest beds were always occupied. But since the operation of Christ Hospital on 15th February, 1957, the number decreased slightly. The Chinese and some of the Iban Methodist Christian went to the Mission Hospital for treatment.

The Travelling Dispensary treated 4,751 cases of which 501 are repetitions. Most cases treated on tour were gastritis, malaria (undiagnosed), scabies, pox, conjunctivitis and miscellaneous skin diseases.

A Travelling Dispensary was set up at Belaga and is being operated by the Hospital Assistant.

In Song the new Dispensary was opened to the public in June, 1937.

In June cases of epidemic influenza occurred in this district and soon spread to the longhouses. This gave the Hospital Assistants in Kapit and subdistricts a very busy time. Local people here claim this is due to "toxic bomb".

The World Health Organisation Anti-Malaria team completed spraying the whole district in early June. The operation was successful. There were some difficulties encountered at first in finding isolated longhouses. The project leaders have reported encouraging results and from this spraying it is hoped that the transmission of malaria is being reduced.

The building of W.H.O. Anti-Malarial advance quarters at Nanga Buloh was completed in May. It is a longhouse design comprising living quarters for staff, stores and office. It was declared open by the Director of Medical Services, Dr. Evans, on 10.4.37, attended by Mr. Kingley of Radio Sarawak and a number of Government staff and perambulators including the District Officer and others. This longhouse locally known to the Iban as "Nangah Orang Nyamoh" and the Doctor is known as "Tana Nyamoh".

Education

There are five Mission schools operating in this district. Four Methodist Mission all in Kapit and one Roman Catholic Mission at Song. There are three Chinese Schools, two in Kapit and one in Song. The Government School at Belaga was taken over by Kapit District Council making the total number of schools under Kapit District Council to five in comparison to one last year. The Abam Main School at Belaga is prosperous. The pupils comprise mixed races—Malay, Chinese, Kayan, Pagan, Krayak and Kajang. The school band is improving.

The need for schools and education is slowly growing apace particularly among the Iban. Pengulu Saniat of Munga Merit has collected a sum of \$1,821.20 from his subtribes. With the help of Government Grant, it is hoped to build a good school building to replace the present one which is in a bad condition.

Trade

The trading profits in the bazaar during this period have been maintained and there is an air of prosperity. The return of Sarawak Rangers from Malaya and coming of the Kris Film Unit and Shaw Brothers in this district, brought a minor boom in retail sales in the bazaar. Gold and Silver Smiths are making a good profit from the girls employed by these two firms while the petrol dealers are making good sale. With the increasing number of outboard engines to about 1,200 purchased by Iban, the average monthly sale of petrol from these dealers is 12,000 gallons.

General

The Song Regatta during the Easter week was a great success and all alike Kapit, Kanowit, Belaga, Sibuan visitors and Song residents had a very enjoyable time. There was a national costume and beauty contest which was won by Miss Rajah of Kapit, football, sports and badminton competitions, side shows and banquets from Sibuan. Mrs. Temenggong Japah has kindly awarded the trophies and prizes to the winners.

Early in January, the Malayan Film Productions Limited (Shaw Brothers) started taking film entitled "Longhouse" — at Pengulu Kullah's longhouse in Sungai Amang. The Unit stayed there for about three months. When this Unit left the Kris Film Unit arrived and they built a temporary longhouse at Kapit where they are also taking film. Both these film units seem to experience difficulty in fixing the salary of their leading girls. Normally the leading actress will

have to receive more salary than the rest but to the Iban, if all are working together salary will have to be paid equally, no matter whether she is a leading actress or not. Any explanation giving the reason why leading girls have to be paid more did not satisfy the rest. The Kris Film Unit completed their shooting at the end of June.

Distinguished Visitors

His Excellency the Governor accompanied by his Private Secretary and the Hon'ble the Resident visited Kapit on 15th January, 1937. After inspecting Guard of Honour mounted by Sarawak Constabulary under the command of Inspector Lingo, His Excellency presented Commander-in-Chief Certificate to T. B. Kampen and Tungan (ex-Sarawak Ranger). Incidentally on the same day His Excellency's longhouse was on fire. The next day His Excellency and party left for Sungai Melinau in the Mijong to pay a visit to Pengulu Sibuan. The river was extremely low and most of the time was spent on paddling and dragging the boat on the way up. Pengulu Sibuan's house was reached at 4 p.m. His Excellency was met by the Pengulu, Tani Karamah and school children at the Pangkalan. His Excellency spent two nights in the Pengulu's house and returned to Kapit on 17th and left for Sibuan on same ship.

BEKATANG DISTRICT

ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER

D. S. GIBSON

Cases

Cases again were largely death cases.

The inquest on the death of Law Look Mei (Chinese) was held throughout the half year, and was only finally closed in July. This was a mysterious case of poisoning by a heavy overdose of sleeping drugs. It appeared that these drugs, though on the dangerous drugs list, had not been obtained from any qualified person. It was not possible to find out from where they had been obtained.

An interesting case came up on 15th May, concerning forged documents. One Wahap bin Goh had somehow obtained, and had attempted to use, forged land documents. He eventually tried to use them in the Land Office, Sibuan, but they were not true well forged! He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to a year's imprisonment. He had five other similar previous convictions.

There have been deaths by drowning in the district during the half year. Inquests were held and finding of death by misadventure returned in each case. Small children were the victims of three of these cases.

Crime

A Frenchman from Sibuan, Wong Ngai Lok, was convicted in the District Court, Daru, under Section 3 of the Hypodermic Syringe Ordinance. The man who had received the injection died some hours later, but in the post-mortem death was found to be due to other causes. The man was fined \$25.

A smokehouse in Daru was burned down, and it said to have caused a loss of \$5,000. Arson was suspected, but police investigation brought nothing to light.

Mas bin Peng of Daru was charged with negligently shooting a Dajak at Tolanjau Daru on 12nd March. The Dajak was not badly hurt.

Four cases of illegally distilling arrack were brought to court. All distillers were in small business; only three were fined between \$100 and \$200 and one was acquitted.

Obituary

At 3 p.m. on 26th February, Waihi Tan Kampong Taradai his Kajah of Kampong Selomas died after fifteen years loyal service as a Tan Kampong. He was sixty-two years old, and died from Tuberculosis.

On 1st March Dayang Raziah binti Aliy. Suba, widow of the late S.N.O. Haji Yusoff, died near Daro. S.N.O. Haji Yusoff had been a member of Council Negri, and was S.N.O. at Mata for some time. Dayang Raziah was about sixty-seven years old.

On 11th June, Tsui Ramah Lahot died in the night after a brief party at a house in Sungai Pili Blunting.

Local Authorities

(a) Mata/Daro District Council

After initial opposition from the Melanau, owing to misunderstanding about assessment, and from the Chinese owing to disagreements about adequate representation, this Council has I think got away to a very good start.

The Council has made a model and ingenious by-law, the Kampong Roads by-law, which requires all Melanau to repair their share of kampong roads when required to do so by the Council or a Tan Kampong. It has already been effective, and roads in most of the kampongs of Mata and Daro sub-districts have shown a marked improvement during the half-year.

Other interesting decisions of the Council during the half year are as follows:

To open a mixed Chinese/Melanau Local Authority School at Kuala Mata.

To take complete responsibility for the Mata trading room.

To build a badminton court in both Mata and Daro.

To take on a Council midwife at both Mata and Daro.

To pass Prevention of Fire by-laws requiring all shopkeepers to keep fire extinguishers and buckets of sand on their premises.

To purchase a mobile forty-four gallon fire extinguisher for Daro.

To require children in primaries one and two in all Council Schools to attend morning and afternoon with effect from 1st September, and in future as they are promoted, so that by January, 1959, all children will be schooling all day. This will be real progress, since schools in Mata and Daro have never before opened in the morning.

To pass school attendance by-laws for the Council area.

There is a promising future for this authority provided that it can get some capable executive staff. This has been the factor which has most held up progress so far.

(b) Blunting District Council

The most significant events of the half year have been Councillor Tiong See King being elected to Council Negri and his leaving on 26th May for a three months course in Local Government in England. He has since returned, and from first impressions it appears that his course has been a valuable one.

Some interesting decisions of the Council during the half year have been as follows:

To build a Dayak Rest House in Blunting, and collect a cess from all Dayaks of 51 a door to make it self-supporting. At the time of writing the Rest House has been completed.

To abolish Equalization Cess, and replace it with House Rating.

To pay 35 for each dog caught and impounded. Dog catchers have been difficult to find.

To join in all proposed minor road schemes for 1957, and to build a road and ferry at Ty. Goring to connect up the Sariki-Binatang Road with the Malor-Tukli-Narok-Paradise (Sibu) minor road. Applications for a supplementary warrant and a 50 per cent grant from Government have been submitted.

To pay for petrol and arrange travelling programme and publicity for a dresser to visit all schools in the district four times a year. The dresser has now done two successful trips.

To recruit a qualified Health Inspector for 1958. It is expected that the inspector will be available in January, 1958.

Native Affairs

Out of forty-two applicants from Mata and Blunting from Daro to go on the "Hajj" only twenty-nine and ten respectively finally had enough money to go. The three applicants from Blunting all went on the "Hajj" after making their deposits in good time; they had made their money chiefly as pineapple planters.

Mata was flooded for the whole of the first quarter, right over the high Government walkways for some of the time, and the floods only subsided during the second quarter. The Mata/Daro District Council is taking a keen interest in river clearing, and at the date of writing have signed contracts for the clearing of the whole river as far upriver as Mata, and further up in parts. During the flooding rubber cannot be tapped, and many of the people rely on increased collecting or tapping rubber in Sibu for a livelihood.

A large Tuba fishing was held on New Year's day at Buntat sibu, Blunting, under the leadership of T.K. Abang Haji Latif and Pengkulu Tash. Five hundred prahu participated and an average of about thirty katus of fish per prahu was caught.

Haji Raga on 1st May was a fine affair. The Mosque overflowed onto the road, and was probably fuller than ever before. The Blunting Chinese are notoriously bad miners but on this occasion many of the spectators were chased into coming round the kampong with my wife and I.

The eclipse of the moon in the early hours of 14th May caused some excitement among the Dayaks here. They knew that the situation was in hand however and by leaving their ponies with all their resources managed to bring back to life the dying moon.

S.A.O. Spion Lee-King Hong confirmed taking census of all Chinese in Blunting sub-district, and the work should be completed before the end of September. In view of the land apportion of the Paschoon approximate details of land held by each family were also taken. There was no opposition to the census, and the S.A.O. was given a warm welcome by all families, almost without exception.

There was a small fire in a Daro burner shophouse in June but it was put out in time. The cause is not known; no evidence of arson has come to light.

Agriculture

In an effort to do something to improve their agriculture a practical demonstration with an interesting talk was given individually to virtually every house with hill land on—

(i) High yielding rubber planting, with emphasis on "grish kuro".

(ii) Coffee planting.

(iii) Rat poisoning, and pests on the farm.

The farmers themselves, from each family, saw a practical demonstration done by an A.F.A. with his own hands. The actual materials were taken into each house and to a piece of land outside each house. There was a genuine interest in these demonstrations, and I think a lot more could be done on these lines. A.F.A. Abang Hassan is to be congratulated on the way in which he conducted the demonstrations.

Good paddy harvests were reported from Tanjung Selek and areas near Daro and from Sungai Seimih, Sungai Mayang and Tg. Belakong, all swamp areas. At Sungai Sam, Sg. Merudong and Sg. Seridong (swamp-lands near Bintang), some very poor harvests were reported owing to "Baweng Papi" and rats.

The free distribution of Zinc Phosphide and Agrocide among paddy planters has been a success as far as it has gone, but the distribution does not appear to have been wide enough. Perhaps this coming season the rest of the five issues will have reached everyone.

The 150 acre high-yield rubber scheme in Ulu Bintang at which the Dayaks under Pengarah Tigong have been playing abnormally to a halt. This was partly because of a lack of confidence in Government (they have been convinced that there is a catch in the subsidy) and partly because of the amount of work involved in tinning. After a lot of attention from the Rubber Development Officer's staff the scheme is getting slowly under way again.

On 20th May, I was invited to attend a meeting of the Agriculturists Association. Unfortunately this association is not in the least bit interested in Agriculture, and is purely a society formed to get hold of more land for its members. They were therefore somewhat disappointed when I suggested lines of agricultural progress in which the society might play a constructive part. I also suggested that they ask for Agricultural Officers to come and give them talks on different subjects. My advice fell on stony ground, until eventually they managed to extract from me information as to what land would be available for new allocation in the near future. This last piece of information was also the only part of our discussion that was reported in the local press.

Medical and Health

The travelling dispensary of Lower Keling has continued to give a poor service during the half year under review. It is understood that a new dispenser has now been put on the run, but he has a tight and extensive programme and it will need a determined man to keep to it. The date of arrival of the dispensary has been so unreliable that the public does not wait for it, and the new man will have a hard task to regain their confidence.

The recently posted second dispenser Bintang has visited every school in the district once during the half year. This travelling has been financed by the Bintang District Council, who have agreed to pay a visit to each school once in every three months.

Flu hit this district as it did everywhere else. There were no deaths caused by it alone, as far as is known, and it has died down now. Attendances at the dispensary for the months of May, June were exceptional. May—4,112, June—4,792.

Labour

On 26th February, one Lee Yew Lik was killed at the Lee Kong Tai logging station, Ulu Bamar, when a log rolled on top of him. The employees have not admitted liability in spite of an enquiry and my efforts to reach an agreement with the employer (United Sawmills Ltd.). The matter is now pending arbitration.

This case has been very long drawn out because there were no Commissioners of Labour gazetted at the time of the death. Also although the parties both live in Sibu, the death occurred in Bintang District. The Deputy Commissioner, Sibu, took the case up for me, but was unable to settle it and had to pass it back. The procedure under the new Ordinance is also more complicated and lengthy than under the old Ordinance.

Ting Chai Tin, a invective working at the time on the Sarawak Steamship Company's "Brunei", was injured slightly by falling cargo on 16th March. The matter was settled between the injured party and the Company by the Deputy Commissioner. The Com-

pany has paid \$150 compensation, representing three weeks pay.

On 15th June, one Lee Chik Hui was killed while loading earth at Sungai Kijang, Bintang. The person who appears to have been the employer did not report the case, and on a claim being presented admitted no liability. An enquiry is taking place, and a complaint has been lodged with the Police by the Deputy Commissioner regarding prosecution of the employer for not reporting the case.

Visitors

On 1st March, His Excellency the Governor paid a formal visit to Bintang.

After meeting local dignitaries, he heard requests in court and then visited the District Council and walked round the bazaar. He also visited the Bintang Malay School, and a newly opened Dayak School across river at Sungai Seidap.

In the afternoon he visited the half completed water-works and then entertained guests on board the "Mersan". Later in the evening he was entertained to dinner by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. He left the same night to return to Kuching.

A visit from the Governor has an excellent effect on the District. The public were really pleased that they were being honoured with a visit, and all worked together to make Bintang look clean and tidy. Government Departments all co-operated to have things as well prepared as possible, and even owners and office boys showed that they were capable of becoming men of action. The visit was a most welcome occasion.

General

On 26th March Mr. Kho-Cheng Sa, a calligraphist from Hong Kong, held an exhibition of calligraphy and wall-plates.

On 12th June, the Queen's Birthday, there was a guard of honour at Bintang and a small party in the Kubu afterwards to drink Her Majesty's health. The Hawkers Association had volunteered their services for the occasion.

The Information Office Film Unit visited Bintang on 21st June, and their show was greatly appreciated.

SARAWAK DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES

M. J. Foster

Courts

High Court — During his two official visits here the Judge sat on three days and dealt with four cases. The Court dismissed one appeal for increase of maintenance under Section 180 A of C.P.C. and allowed two appeals against the severity of sentence. Sitting in its original jurisdiction the Court tried the murder case of which the Preliminary Inquiry was held last year. The accused was a Dayak who was then convicted and sentenced to suffer death. On appeal capital punishment was later commuted to one of life imprisonment by His Excellency, advised by three Medical Officers who unanimously agreed that the prisoner was suffering from a delusion form of insanity at the time of the crime.

Native Officer's Court — The Court coped with one native divorce case involving one Dayak. The accused was convicted and fined.

Two Preliminary Inquiries were held in two cases against two Dayaks, namely Guyon anak Bant who was charged with murder and John anak Mando charged with Culpable Homicide. The former was discharged and the latter committed for trial as charged. The trial is pending.

Two shooting cases occurred. In one a man was killed while out hunting and in another an adulterer

had his activities temporarily halted by a well placed shot fired by an angry husband.

The increase in the number of attack cases is an indication of increased activity by the Customs Department.

Native Affairs

10 Sea Dayaks

The Sea Dayaks had a better than average harvest. The high price of rubber has also added to their prosperity. The Dayaks are however more aware that their future is precarious. Good crops of hill padi are exceptional and there is not enough land available each year to allow an adequate area to be planted. An increasing interest is being shown in the possibilities of farming swamp padi. Two houses have already made substantial rubber gardens under the rubber scheme. Many others are showing an active interest.

The transformation of hill-riber Sea Dayaks into swamp-rice and rubber planters is not one which can be faced with equanimity. Sea Dayaks as such have a valuable contribution to make to the civilisation of Sarawak if not to the world as a whole. A new way of life will mean changes which appear to be being made now. The cheap and ugly replaces much that was formerly of fine workmanship and in good taste.

The enthusiasm for education is at times disquieting. It is not very clear what Dayaks expect education to do for them. A few Dayak leaders see in a school a means of self-aggrandisement and in some cases unrealistic promises of results have been made but on the whole Dayaks prefer a practical approach and take more interest in education when it is explained that it is intended to help them in their everyday lives.

The low standard of the teachers, the rather dull curriculum tends to make the schools drab. Unless parents take a hand in educating their children the next generation will find life less interesting than their fathers.

40 Malays

There has been some slight improvement in the timber trade and the Malays are better off than they were at the beginning of the year.

Like the Dayaks the Malays are showing an increased interest in schools. This is due to the fact that the schools have improved. One school was rebuilt and another new school building is nearing completion. Good progress has been made in equipping schools and the standard of teachers has risen. The kampongs appear to be less lethargic. The interest which the District Council has taken in their schools is largely responsible for this.

It is interesting that one kampong has agreed to share its school with other races and religions. The Muslim communities tend to isolate themselves from the rest of the people perhaps more than other groups and the stimulus of contact will be valuable.

The payment of rates is gradually being accepted by the Sariket kampong although they are still hoping to bargain over the amounts they are asked to pay. Provided payment can be enforced it will be accepted in due course. Fortunately section 19 of the Local Authorities Ordinance provides the necessary powers. It is unlikely that they will have to be exercised.

Chinese Affairs

A fair degree of prosperity has been enjoyed by the Chinese owing to the price of rubber. The low price of pepper has partly offset this.

Some seventy families are interested in moving to Limbang and many of them have already been there to inspect the land. The opportunities in Limbang appear to be good and those who make the move are unlikely to regret it. Judging by the size of many

Chinese families the emigrants will soon be replaced in Sariket.

The Rubber Planting Scheme is now accepted by the Chinese and 600 acres have already been planted under the scheme. Pepper gardeners have in some instances planted rubber in their gardens.

The half year has been interesting for several new enterprises. A large scale poultry farm is doing well in Bulat Road. Over 1,000 birds are kept. A new bus company was formed out of those formerly engaged in driving and evening buses. The service has proved popular and fills a demand created by the improved roads. A swimming place was built and at once proved popular but has been neglected on account of an influenza epidemic which affected nearly everyone in the District.

Agriculture

The Rubber Planting Scheme has made excellent progress and whereas a year ago many people were inclined to plant without waiting for the scheme, now much more interest is shown in entering the scheme. Approved applications now cover 1,400 acres of which 600 have actually been planted. Most of the scheme has been carried out by Chinese. Dayaks are less certain matters and it remains to be seen whether they will stay the course. The interest of the Dayaks is growing and two Dayak blocks of twenty acres each have been successfully planted. A handful of Sariket Malays is also anxious to plant. However it has been necessary to point out to them that the scheme is not an easy way of acquiring free land to sell to others. In spite of this their interest has continued.

The years ahead during which hill padi can be cultivated are numbered and either the Dayaks must move or abandon this crop. It is obviously difficult to provide these Dayaks with the land which they would choose for themselves and for various reasons many would not contemplate moving unless to a favoured area. The possibilities of farming swamp-padi in the district have never been properly explored and while many Dayaks are prepared to consider wet padi if they can plant their hill land with rubber no one can say to what extent wet padi can be farmed successfully.

Pepper has tended to lose ground. The low price is proving too low for the less skilful growers and even the best growers hardly make a living. The exports for the first six months of the year are just over half those for the first six months of 1956. The 1957 crop seems to be a large one but may be less than the 1956 crop which was the biggest in history. Old gardens have been planted with rubber and uneconomic gardens have been abandoned. New gardens are being made and high yielding varieties are being planted. Pepper gardeners would benefit from advice on fertilisers.

Locally grown fruit and vegetables are more plentiful. The vegetables are not of very good quality and the variety is limited. If seeds and advice were available striking improvements could be made as the growers are hard working and skilful.

Inoculation of fowls has been carried out and the eradication of disease among fowls should help to raise the standard of living. One poultry farmer has established himself on a large scale. His large fresh eggs find a ready sale.

Constabulary

The Sariket detachment of the Sarawak Constabulary is a good one. Turn-out is smart and the morale of the men is high. Its effectiveness as a force is marred by the language difficulty. Attempts to recruit Chinese have not been successful but these should be persisted with.

The appointment of a Chinese Gazetted Officer has been an unqualified success which has done much to improve relations with the public.

Education

The first six months of the year has seen a transformation of the native schools under the jurisdiction of the Sarikoi District Council. Great credit is due to the Chairman and the Education Committee who have brought considerable practical experience to their work as well as a lively interest. Buildings have been improved and proper equipment has been provided. Much remains to be done but a very good start has been made. Very valuable help has been received from the Education Department and the kindness and patience of the Divisional Education Officer has been reflected in a higher standard in all the schools in the district.

All schools still suffer from curricula which are rather dull and school teachers who lack training. As may be expected the Dayak schools suffer most in this respect.

Local Authorities

The Sarikoi District Council made good progress during the first half of the year when the estimates began to bear fruit. The work of the General Purposes Committee became more effective after staff, a Health Inspector and a Works Officer were recruited, to carry out their decisions. Similarly the Education Committee profited from having a School Affairs Officer to put their decisions into practice. The Council has generally benefited from finding that its decisions result in something happening. Councillors show a keener interest in proceedings and look less as though they wished they were not councillors and more the public is becoming aware of the existence of the authority.

The Council's clinic has continued to be run successfully although it has gone through a difficult period because all the staff have had or are about to have babies.

The Council has found that the employment of women is successful but if they are paid the same salaries as men, very expensive. Women spend about two months a year being incapacitated by the baby before it arrives and two months on leave after it is born. If they were paid salaries equal to men's salaries they should receive about three-quarters of men's pay. Furthermore women are either married or likely to get married and to move away at short notice.

The travelling dispensary gave fewer treatments than during the last half of 1956, 8,444 compared with 8,882. During the first half of 1956, 8,728 treatments were given. Complaints about the travelling dispensary are frequently met with. There are that it does not call at all, it does not call regularly so no one knows when to expect it, it does not stay long enough for the Hospital Assistant to treat people properly. There is some justification for all these complaints but it is not easy to suggest any remedy. Some places are only accessible at certain stages of the tide. The tide affects the time it takes to do a journey. The more places the dispensary visits the less time it can spend at each.

Trade and Economics

Import and Export duties were 93 per cent and 80 per cent of the amounts collected for the first six months of 1956. The volume of trade is about 90 per cent of what it was a year ago. The value of import duties has steadily decreased since 1955 and is now about 80 per cent of what it was for the last half of 1955. This decline reflects a decline in the prosperity of the houses but in view of the collapse of the price of pepper after 1954 the level of trade has remained remarkably high. One or two businesses have found themselves in difficulties but most of the shops are well stocked and well maintained.

Affairdoms

The outstanding event of the year was the visit of His Excellency the Governor to Sarikoi on 26th February. His Excellency's visit gave much pleasure to a wide section of the public.

MUKAH DISTRICT

District Officers

Ahang Zainuddin

Crime

There was one case of theft causing death by rash or negligent acts. Accused was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment and ordered to pay "pasi nyawa" of \$300.

Another than of Rumbih Marang is awaiting trial for Criminal Intimidation. The alleged intimidation was that the than sent one "Tiyauko" with five boats on it which meant that after five days he will come to the Chinese house and assault the man.

A Dayak woman voluntarily caused hurt by passing acetic acid into another woman's private organ. The accused was to undergo two months' imprisonment in Kuching and also to pay \$50 compensation.

Quite a number of Chinese traders in Ulu Mukah and Balingian were charged under the Weighing and Measuring Ordinance and were convicted accordingly receiving fines ranging from \$50 to \$100.

Health

The epidemic of influenza and undifferentiated dysentery attacked Mukah District in the middle of May and it was apparently come down in number towards the end of June. No death was reported. The general health of this District has remained satisfactory. The Deputy Director of Medical Services accompanied by the Divisional Medical Officer, SBN, toured Mukah District from 12th April to 14th April, 1957. He has observed the inadequate sanitation of Mukah Market owing to an unqualified Health Inspector employed by the Mukah District Council and as a result the health matters have been badly neglected.

Native Affairs

(i) Melanau

The drifting of Melanau to other districts, especially to Seria, seeking for livelihood still continued.

Sea-bird catching of the Melanau fishermen remained the same.

Sarak, the blowing of sea ceremony, was performed by the Melanau in Mukah, Oya and Balingian during March. Approximately 1,500 persons at Mukah, 1,000 persons at Oya and 500 persons at Balingian attended the blowing respectively. Bannaga, Bungkaga and hundreds of small crafts also took part. The Iyah Lant or Sea Spirits were dressed in handsome masks and carrying pecking danced on the water's edge. The ceremony ended after prayers by Tuan Imam and a feast of curry and sweet meats.

Three adults and one girl of Melanau island went on the Haj during the period under review.

(ii) Dayak

Only Pongkudo Orima and Pongkudo Aang's areas have a better harvest than previous years.

The than of Rumbih Parau under Pongkudo Orima have eventually cooled down their tempers and so agreed to the works set out by the Forest Department staff in Ulu Mukah Protected Forest.

Agriculture

The padi harvest was completed and reported better than previous year with a few exception of bad crop owing to poor burning. An average of 70 per cent has sufficient padi to last for the coming season.

The Master Fisherman made another trip to Mukah and Balingian for a more detailed study of the fishing

industry. Three Melanau fishermen of Balingian are also interested in inboard engines. Government is arranging to grant them a loan for the purchase of the inboard engines. It would be much appreciated if a subsidy on nylon fishing net and materials can also be considered in future.

SIBU DISTRICT

District Officer

D. C. Walker

Courts

Most of the increase in court cases is due to traffic offences, many of them for speeding, and reflects the activity of the traffic branch of the police. There has been no great change in the volume of civil litigation, most of the claims being for debts due.

One case raised a point of law of great importance to importers. It was decided by the Court of Appeal that forfeiture of goods on conviction for a false declaration under section 117 of the Customs Ordinance was mandatory and not within the discretion of the Court. The accused in this case lost 110 bags of rice.

The Lower Magistrate Courts have also been very busy with minor criminal cases. The difficulty of serving summonses referred to in the previous report remains acute but there are no delays in hearing once a summons is served, no limit being placed on the number of cases dealt with in one day. An accused person who presents himself before the court not drawn in debt with them and there by the magistrate on a plea of guilty. The procedure for accepting a plea of guilty in writing has not been of much use owing to the difficulty of serving notice on the accused after disposal of the case.

The case of Lim Chai Leng of the Ika Lim Rubber Factory who was convicted in the District Court last year of being in possession of some 200 lbs. of raw opium was quashed on appeal on a question relating to the evidence of the Batak accomplice.

Crime

The general level of crime remains low and there has been no serious crime other than in connection with opium which continues to flourish. Several unsuccessful prosecutions have not assisted. There continues to be a large number of bicycle thefts reported and an attempt is being made to deal with this by a stricter enforcement of licensing particularly in rural areas. Assault cases are frequent but are said to be due to private fights and not to the activity of gangs. The gambling raps are kept on the move by police raids and are now believed to be operating mostly outside the town area. Combined efforts by police and administration are tending to keep down the level of prostitution and several young girls are no longer operating. After a complaint by the Catholic Missionaries that a brothel boat was based in the immediate vicinity of the Mission a suggestion was made to the owner by the District Officer that he might consider breaking the boat up within twenty-four hours since there was no tide to float it off. This was duly done.

There was no burglary, no robbery with violence and no rape.

Rice Town

One of the conspicuous improvements this year has been the bus service, the preliminary organisation of which was done last year. All the old "mopette buses" disappeared early in the year and the service is now frequent, comfortable and cheap. Bus stops have been installed recently. Additions to time tables leaves much to be desired and pressure is gradually

being brought to bear to improve the service in this respect. The taxi owners, of whom there are far too many in Sibn, have suffered some loss of customers and are alleged, probably with truth, to be competing unfairly by picking up passengers separately. Therein have been issued but action against this type of infringement is peculiarly difficult without the kind of police trap which is now frowned upon.

Fast driving on roads which are well surfaced but not very wide led to the Sibn Urban District Council, on the representation of unofficial members and the public, to impose speed limits covering virtually the whole of the municipal area. They have been well observed on the whole and are a salutary check on the enthusiasm of drivers of indifferent skill. In the town the congestion caused by clumsy pedestrians and cyclists and by hundreds of cycles parked by the street side has the valuable effect of keeping motor traffic to a very low speed. There are many accidents but few have a serious effect.

Labour

Workmen's compensation cases amounting to 214,318.17 were settled during the period. This represents fourteen cases, four of which were fatal, an unusually large number considering the small labour force involved. One case, in which a man lost his right hand, has to go through all the stages of arbitration because the employer, although quite prepared to admit his liability informally, will not sign the necessary agreement because he says he cannot afford to pay. Once more a plea is made for compulsory insurance in timber and shipping. Employers, including some of those who ought to know better, cling to the idea that it is unfair that they rather than the man should take the financial risk of death or disablement in these very dangerous occupations.

There have been no serious labour disputes. The death threats of the local left wing newspaper *Sin Min Pau* which continued through most of the half year were accompanied by various claims by employees some of whom came within the ambit of the Labour Ordinance and some of whom did not. After much stalling, the Deputy Protector of Labour eventually gave the employees a clear option of letting him take the case to court on their behalf or negotiating on their own. He could not resist pointing out that there was a certain irony in the situation. The scene of conflict was then removed to the newspaper offices, the employees being apparently unwilling to bring matters to an issue. The paper has now ceased publication and a claim in the court is now pending mainly with the object of securing outstanding wage claims on the movable property.

Public Works

As the weather improved work was recommenced on the Sibn-Pantai-Oya track which is now well beyond the Sungai Pawai River and should if all goes well, reach the District border about thirty miles from Sibn this year. The building of immovable bridges takes the longest time since all the labour required has to be found, transported and worked in the area. Labour for track building included Dayaks and Kayans. All the Kayans have now gone home and track building work almost ceased in June owing to a combination of bad weather and flu. The farming season then intervened but there is no great urgency in continuing with track building until bridge building can catch up. The best of the Dayak gangs have now undertaken to complete the job and are due to recommence in a few days time. Mikatons have been planted up to mile twenty-three.

Native Affairs

Some of the Ithas of the Lower Igan are restless and would like to move to Niah or elsewhere. There is probably enough reasonable padi swamp land in the Igan but no hill land and the people are poor in

every way; in health, in spirits, in property and even in children. The land nearer the sea seems less fertile than that nearer Sibu. There is very little chance for them to move in view of stronger claims elsewhere.

Another request to move came, rather surprisingly, from Kunah Nyanga in the Ponal Seng where there is still plenty of unreserved virgin jungle. They wanted to move to very similar land in the Kapit district. Apparently they have now given up the idea and have homesteaded Malay/Melanau swamp land at Kuala Igan. The Pona-Dya track will pass close to their area and all the people in that region should benefit from increased activity by the Agricultural Department.

The padi harvest was fair in the hill areas and satisfactory, for the most part, in the swamps. Throughout the district there is only for their earnings largely on rubber or on timber.

Chinese Affairs

Two important events happened just after the end of the half year. The first was a reception attended by the Headmen and most of the seventy-one Sub-Headmen. The occasion was the presentation of "Certificates of Recognition" to the Sub-Headmen by the Hon'ble the Resident, Third Division. These gentlemen do a lot of work in a quiet way to keep the peace in the Chinese communities and have not previously received any official recognition. They are not appointed by the Government, have no definite term of office and their election is not officially supervised unless a special request is made. The certificates are locally printed in Chinese with the Sarawak badge in colour and are signed by the District Officer.

The second event was the Headmen's Meeting convened mainly to discuss certain proposals made by the Enabling Advisory Board for amendment of the Chinese marriage law. The Sibu Headmen, who are all practical administrators, were unanimous in condemning polygamy and child betrothal as degrading in principle and usually harmful in practice. They wanted the law amended to forbid these practices and also to tighten up the law regarding adoption which is at present widely ignored. None of them wanted Chinese marriage and other family customs, which vary both from place to place and from time to time, written into the law. In general, and apart from the particular matters mentioned, they were satisfied with the existing law.

There has been the usual collection of family disputes to settle in the District Office. One of the more dramatic involved the release of a girl from custody in a temple in the Laming Road, her incarceration in the Methodist Children's Home for six months, an application to the High Court for permission to marry without the parent's consent, and a civil marriage conducted by the Justice the following morning in the presence of the Sibu Urban District Council naming water and the baby which had been born a few hours before.

Some bitter things were said about fire crackers in my last report. I am pleased to report that the Sibu Urban District Council has now put its foot down and imposed a strict limit on the numbers of crackers which can be fired at weddings, funerals, etc., and the places where they can be fired. The effect of this control has been most noticeable. Some of the more responsible Chinese do not now take advantage of the permits they can obtain and at the recent funeral of one of the leading inhabitants of Sibu, conducted in other respects with the full ceremonial, no crackers were fired.

Control at festivals is still a problem. The Sibu Urban District Council has placed a limit on the times during which crackers may be fired but recognise that, without some system of rationing which

must be colony wide, it will not be possible to control quantities.

KANOWIT DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICER

Michael Sells

Court

There has been one accidental shooting and one man was sentenced to six months' imprisonment under Section 304 A of the Penal Code. In this instance there was clear evidence of negligence but it is really remarkable that there are not more such cases in view of the fact that there are nearly 3,000 guns in the district.

Crime

There has been very little reported crime in the district, and none of it serious. One case which occasioned considerable interest was of a Chinese medicine seller, who was fined for cheating. He had posed as a "medicine-man" of charms in Iban longhouses. By sleight of hand he had found many such charms and he charged as much as \$45 a dose for his services. His defence was a book on Chinese magic in which he said he believed. The magistrate held that that might well be so, but that he had been using them and he could not very well believe in both.

Health

There was a very heavy outbreak of measles in the early part of the year. Many children died all over the district. Luckily Kanowit came in for its fair share of the influenza epidemic and again many deaths were reported, particularly among the old and weak. One of the problems was to try to persuade people to stay out. There was little that medical science could do for them and the people were far better in their beds than travelling to the hospital. The Hospital Assistant in Kanowit treated 1,000 patients in six days, whilst himself suffering a bad attack of flu.

The Local Authority dispensary under an Upstream Doctor was opened in January in the old Nipah and has been very successful so far. This Doctor has obtained the confidence of his people but one of the main problems has been for him to persuade more serious cases to come to Kanowit or Sibu for treatment.

The building, which was constructed by the local people without assistance, is spacious and well designed; unfortunately it is not in permanent materials.

The dispensary both at Juba and Kanowit have done good work. There is noticeable decline in the number of those who believe only in the "mengang". This has led to Kanowit Dispensary being crowded out for most of the year. Those who have travelled down sometimes for many hours or days for medical attention refuse to be turned back just because the Hospital Assistant says the Dispensary is full up. Many of them refuse to go to Sibu. The ladies here are able to stay in the bazaar, but many are glad to be able to do down on the cold concrete of the dispensary floor. And once there they will not move. Improvements were started in the dispensary in April, but the work was stopped as a result of a visit by the Deputy Director of Medical Services and the Divisional Medical Officer, who did not agree to the price. The Public Works Department were asked to take over. The work remains uncompleted.

A doctor will start a private practice at the Mission Hospital in Kanowit shortly, with certain responsibilities for the Government dispensary.

The Travelling Dispensary has been operating satisfactorily with the occasional loss of the District Office periodicals — the Medical periodical is in bad condition through continual dragging over rocks in the shallow waters of the site.

Three out of four Trainee Midwives have passed their exams and have come back to work. Two to Kasevit and one to Jelan. They are already proving themselves popular. Two new trainees have gone to Sibu.

Native Affairs

The harvest was adequate throughout most of the district with the exception of the Ngemah and the Marbau areas, where they obtained practically nothing. The price of rubber has remained high and for the most part the people are not too badly off. This has been shown by the very considerable improvement in the standard of living which has been noted or started in the last half year. It is unusual now to see a new house tied with rattan, and the employment of Chinese carpenters is the order of the day. A few houses have instant carpentry and are making a lucrative living renting these houses and putting in walls, etc.

Chinese Affairs

Chinese New Year in Kasevit was a quiet affair than in the previous years and reflects the increasing prosperity of the Kasevit traders.

Economic

The increased tax on drinks and tobacco at the same time as the increased transport charges resulting from the fuel crisis, afforded traders an opportunity to put up all prices. Unfortunately, many of the tax exemptions let it be known that all increases were a direct result of Government taxation.

Labour and Employment

Twenty-eight men were recruited at the end of May to the Kasevit Rangers. As usual there was no shortage of applicants and every able-bodied man in the district would have come to Kasevit on the off-chance of recruitment had they not been recruited.

The flood of men entering Seria illegally to look for work has not diminished and a number have gone to North Borneo, after paying the necessary deposit.

FOURTH DIVISION

MIRI DISTRICT

District Officers

P. Ashton

LAW AND ORDER

During the six months under review, 311 cases were heard in the various courts in Miri and fifty-five in the substations of Niah and Sibuti.

In paragraph one of my last half yearly report, attention was drawn to the ever increasing number of Court cases and figures were quoted to show that three times as many cases were heard in 1956 as in 1954. It would appear that the position has now stabilised as the figure of 586 for the first half of 1957 is less than half the 1956 figure of 1,135.

Cases of special interest in court were as follows:—

In the lower courts

There were a number of January inquiries. The most distressing was the case of Mr. Law Lip Thong, Mr. Law Lip Thong was a treasury clerk of nearly twenty years' service who has been subject for a number of

years to mental attacks. He was sent to hospital in Kuching by Government launch in the middle of January, but jumped overboard off Tanjung Simajalan during the hours of darkness and was never heard of again. I am pleased to be able to report that Government paid a sum of over \$11,000 compensation to his widow.

The Manager of the Cathay Cinema, Miri, complained of hoodlums who made a practice of forcing their way into the cinema without paying or of disturbing cinema performances and damaging the cinema seats. Two persons were convicted in the District Court of committing mischief. Both were ordered to pay compensation of \$25 and were sentenced to one month's imprisonment or a fine of a further \$25.

There was one prosecution for importing opium amounting to two katis and six tablets. The accused was found guilty and sentenced to a fine of \$5,000 or two years' imprisonment. He elected to serve his jail sentence.

There was one case of running, lost by negligent act with a gaining. The accused admitted the offence, was fined \$250 and paid compensation of \$500 to the person injured.

On New Year's morning, Customs Officers searched a launch which arrived in Miri from Kuala Belait and found a large quantity of unexcised cigarettes on board. The case was heard in the District Court. The Chinchee, the Chief Engineer and one sailor were fined six times the amount of duty of which they had attempted to defraud the Government. Total fines amounted to over \$4,000. On appeal, Mr. Justice Rogers ordered a re-trial before a new magistrate on technical grounds. The case was heard again in the District Court by a new magistrate who once again convicted and the accused have appealed yet again to the High Court. At the time of writing, this appeal has not yet been heard in the High Court.

In the High Court

Mr. Justice Lancelotti visited Miri on the 19th of March, 1957, heard four criminal cases and several civil cases none of which were of outstanding interest.

Mr. Justice Rogers visited Miri on the 10th May, 1957, heard one criminal appeal and one civil appeal. The criminal appeal was the cigarette case to which reference has been made above.

Miri Town Area

The Urban District Council

The Urban District Council continued to hold regular Committee and Council meetings throughout the period under review. The work of the Council was much hindered by the absence of the Chairman on leave, and the same will apply during the second half of the year as it is expected that Mr. Gifford will be away in Batavia for most of the months of July, August and September.

There have been no shophouse landlord and tenant disputes worth recording during the period under review. A number of houses fall in later in the year and it may be necessary for the Rent Conciliation Committee to take a hand in settling them.

Schools

Schools in the district continued to function normally during this period. In order to cope with the ever increasing number of primary school children seeking admission to Chinese primary schools, the Miri Urban District Council voted funds for the construction of two primary schools almost immediately, one in Pujut area and one in Brighton.

The new Government Secondary School, aimed at giving Chinese boys the best of both the English and the Chinese educational worlds simultaneously, opened

at the beginning of the year in temporary premises. Funds were available in the estimates for the construction of a new school on Tanjung Lohang but by the end of June no work had been started.

Rural Areas

The Sibu Rural District Council

This Local Authority, incorporating the Niah and Sibuti Sub-districts, came into being on 1st January. It consists of twelve Councillors elected by the various communities roughly in the proportion of one per thousand. The Authority got away to a good start at the beginning of the year and had a satisfactory session in April at which each of the three standing committees made well thought out recommendations to the Council.

The Authority aims at four sessions a year for the time being, the next of which will be a budget session planned for September and later in the year a final session. In view of the devastating staff shortage the district went through in the early part of the year, it is just as well the Authority's programme was not planned on too ambitious lines, although it is disappointing not to have been able to encourage and develop Local Government enterprise more in this area, where there is excellent material.

Agriculture

The 1956 harvest was good and there is every reason to believe that there should be no shortage of food this year.

The response to Government's offer of rubber planting subsidies has not been good. It is believed that this is at least partly due to few less applicants might be unable to comply with Government's requirements. Action is now being taken to try and rectify this state of affairs.

Land and Forests

Kampar Dayaks from the Second Division continue to trickle into Niah and Sibuti without having received permission to do so. My experience last year when I had to receive 300 Dayaks of K. Siam from boats which were unable to enter the river has prejudiced me violently against mass movements of Dayaks anywhere. A policy of controlled infiltration seems to be less expensive and more satisfactory. Such infiltration, however, must at all costs be controlled otherwise disaster could easily follow. I suspect that the time will come, and very soon, when it will be necessary to make an example of recalcitrant kampars 'pour encourager les autres'. There is at least one party in the Niah headed by expatriate Kiatang of the Baining Ai, which refuses to return home, refuses to join an existing house, refuses to get out of the Niah, refuses to farm swamp peat and will agree only to accepting from Government a large tract of virgin jungle to be burnt down.

Health

Health through the half year has been good generally though the district did not escape the world-wide epidemic of influenza.

Communications

112,000 was allocated from the minor-roads vote for the rehabilitation within the limits permitted by this amount of money of the road to Bakam and Berraya, also the branch road leading up to the site of Mr. Yong Kian's old sawmill at Bakam. During the same period a suitable road trace for a minor road giving overland access from Miri to the Sibuti Sub-district was selected. This road will start at Uras on the beach South of Berraya, follow a private road trace for about four miles to the quarry island from T. Batu and thence follow a footpath for a further four miles of undulating country to the confluence of the Menjeris and the Jaggalas. From this point,

travellers will have to proceed further on foot, bicycle track or by perahu. It will not be reasonably possible to construct a road right through to Belikon Bazar as the bazar is surrounded by swamps.

There are no special developments to report as regards sea and air communications.

SARAWAK OILFIELDS LIMITED

As forecast in my last report, the abrupt cessation by Sarawak Oilfields Limited of much of its engineering work at the end of last year has caused much hardship to local contractors. At the time of writing many of the smaller contractors and their labourers have been living either at a very much reduced level or entirely on credit for seven or eight months and Singapore creditors are beginning to arrive on acrophases and press shopkeepers for settlement of outstanding debts.

Sarawak Oilfields Limited is beginning to engage in engineering work again, though it is unlikely they will build up to their former level of activity for some time to come.

The new drilling location off S. Sima was completed in mid-June. Spudding-in was on June 21st.

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

The Red Cross

A new Committee was elected in February for the year 1958. Mrs. Fisher kindly consented to become the President. Mr. Bhatnagaraya continued in office as Director and Mr. H. S. Brown was appointed Hon. Secretary.

After discussion with representatives of the Kiam Road community, the Red Cross agreed to bear the cost of training two girls as mid-wives instead of continuing to maintain the Kiam Road clinic. It was hoped that two girls would be found in time to start their training in August or September this year.

The Red Cross continued to arrange for hospital visiting and distribution of hospital comforts, to assist with the finding of blood donors as required, embarked on occupational therapy in the General Hospital, continued to assist with the Chinese Pauper House, relief for destitute, distribution of milk powder, burial of the friendless dead and many other similar activities.

A.T.A.S.

A.T.A.S. members continued to labour in the T.B. Hospital principally at the organization of occupational therapy. Dr. Abbott, the new M.O.I. doctor in charge of the hospital, did much work to start an anti-T.B. campaign in the Division which is supposed to be launched later in the year.

Joint Charity Bazaar

Red Cross and A.T.A.S. members agreed that a joint Charity Bazaar should be held along similar lines to the one held last year.

Scouts and Guides

The Scouts and Guides continued to meet regularly.

The Miri District Amateur Athletic Association

The principal sporting event of the period was the united athletic meet held to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday.

Visitors

His Excellency the Governor visited Miri from January 29th to February 1st accompanied by his Private Secretary, Mr. Polo-Evans. On January 31st which was Chinese New Year's day, His Excellency visited many of the town's Chinese leaders.

BARAM DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICER

I. A. N. Unipahat

Court

There were forty-nine Petty Court Criminal cases, of which twenty-seven were cases heard under the Prohibited Areas Ordinance involving seventy-seven accused. There were twenty-five District Court Criminal cases, including several on gambling, opium smoking, and accidental wounding by shotguns. There were ten District Native Court Criminal cases, including one where Waihi Pengraha Bala Bala of Long Dath accused ex-Waihi Pengraha Dita Bala and his family of colluding to poison him, though there was not the slightest shred of evidence of this. There is nothing special to note amongst the Civil cases.

Two shooting cases have not yet been heard. As they are likely to have to go before the High Court and as they both took place in the far side, and as all concerned have had to appear for a Police investigation, the Judge has kindly agreed that to avoid unnecessary expense and annoyance, all concerned may appear a few days before his arrival here in July, when the Preliminary Inquiries may be heard.

Crime and Accidents

Six Malay children were burnt to death when their house caught fire at night in the absence of both their parents.

A large still of illicit attack was found at Long Tern.

A Kayan woman, Uma Anyia, was murdered by her husband, Ho Ting Looing, in Marudi on 9th March.

Some Chinese motor launchers were fined for being untidy today under Section 12 (2) of the Shipping Ordinance.

A prisoner escaped but was caught next day.

As abortive raid was made on Long Tern Station to catch illegal gambling. The raiding party was greeted with joy by the crowd who said "If only you had arrived half an hour earlier or half an hour later, you would have caught us all at it, as it is we have stopped for a meal".

A Kayan of Uma Bawang Kiri and a Kayan of Long Bemaug were killed by falling trees during operations.

A Kayan of Long Senai attempted to commit suicide at Bako in February. He was later sentenced to ten days' imprisonment. On 20th June when he was due to leave Long Senai to act as a witness in the Preliminary Inquiry into his son's death, he disappeared during the night and has not been seen since. He was not well at the time and it is feared he may have expired somewhere.

A theft of £700 took place from the District Officer's bungalow. All but £20 has been recovered. The case is still sub-judice.

Mischief

Compared with other Districts, the Orang Ulu part of this District must be the best suited for, from a health point of view, of any other District in the country, though admittedly at rather a low level. No sooner does a lad get a bit of education than he wishes to better himself and become an ulu dresser. Many applications have had to be turned down due to sanitation point having been reached. The same area is now reasonably supplied with midwives. The few applications from Iban to become a midwife and a dresser have been received but there are no signs of any others following their example. No Malay has yet offered, though it is interesting that a Pagan Iban girl of Belaga has applied to become a midwife. New cases of malaria are quite an event.

The result of improved medical attention in the District is not to lessen hospital attendances at the T.R. and S.O.L. hospitals, Miri, but to increase them. Baram patients sometimes have to be held back in Marudi due to lack of beds in Miri, and Baram provided well over its share of patients during the period under review. In this connection it is interesting to note that the old club building in Marudi is to be turned into a home for T.R. patients who can be treated as external patients though they are not yet fit to return to their homes. Complaints have been received from the occupants of the Miri natives' rest house about its occupation by Baram's sick natives, and by the sick themselves that it is most inconveniently situated for either of the hospitals and that Orang Ulu people, especially women, who do not speak Malay or Iban are unable to find their way about.

New tin dispensaries were opened at Bago and Long Luma and trained midwives took up their posts at Long Bago and Long Sen.

W.H.O. started work in the Kelabit area.

I regret to have to report the death on 2nd May of ex-Chief Clerk, Abang bin Andary, and ex-U.R.A. Min, in the second half of June.

Two cases came in May to inspect their future quarters and the one of the hospital at Long Sen.

The universal flu spread quickly throughout the District causing great depression. At Long Sen school the entrance forty-first very sad-looking little boys were lying in bed when I was there.

The ulu dresser at Long Tejal had great pressure put on him to move to his wife's house at Long Igan and live there for the period of his pregnancy doing no work, and certainly giving no injections, in accordance with ulu laws. He resisted this pressure and (as a result?) there was unfortunately a miscarriage at five months.

A few Kelabit doors from Seridan have been at Long Melanan since 1954 and have steadily increased in return to the ulu. They have now been welcomed for the pinhead and some of them fixed. The Kanyah Lopo Keli doors allowed in from Indonesia provided they joined the Pa Paak longhouses have not done so.

Taking it all in all the Orang Ulu carry on their normal activities peacefully and pleasantly and there is very little to report about them.

The Orang Ulu/Iban boundary has to be watched with continual vigilance. Ramah Goran is trying to influence assistance to a position on the Tinjar, while Ex-I.R. Gung has announced that he will farm this year in the Tugay despite my direct orders to the contrary and despite the fact that I have offered him and his three doors land in the ulu Bakoag.

Iban quarrels still occupy an undue proportion of the time of Government Officers in the Iban. Tual ramah continually beg me to allow kampans from other areas to join them, despite a circular on the subject I sent to them all, however, not one of them has the inclination to help Baram people seeking land by offering a home, for instance, to Gung. Kampans have been increased from the 510 which was usual last year to 530.

More and more frequently I find myself faced by Iban parents who ask me to help them order their adopted child to return to them. Most of these cases are Iban ones and are very difficult to settle. The trouble is there so often adopt semi-grown children whose proper parents are in the same longhouse as the adoptive ones.

Some thirty Indonesian nomadic Pagan have arrived in the ulu Bakoag.

Agriculture

The harvest throughout the District has been completed and taking it all in all has been well above average. By the end of the period under review people were busy starting operations for next year's rice crop, and in the old Barum were only awaiting dry weather to burn off.

A twelve weeks elementary agriculture-rubber course was held at Tamat, Paga Magok and Samarahan for eleven Barum farmers. The pupils themselves enjoyed the course and considered it was of great value. It remains to be seen what effect these people will have on animal husbandry, irrigated padi and rubber production in their own areas. I hope other similar courses can be arranged.

The Frochows at Bukit Berap are busily getting on with the clearing of their rubber land there. They have decided to do communal clearing and planting after which they will draw lots for individual plots of land and request the issue of titles.

Chickens were inoculated on the 14th February.

Two dozen of nomadic Penan are planting padi for the first time this year in the Lohang River.

The more far-sighted headmen are forbidding their people to plant new rubber far from their houses but it will lead to a break-up of longhouse life, for individuals may willingly pay the patch fee, high though it be, so as to live in their gardens.

Land and Surveys

The Barumans at Long Tem agreed to hand over some virgin jungle behind their river bank, towards the Chinese. When the surveyor went up however he ran into difficulties. The Chinese now say the land available to them is too poor.

A prospecting licence was issued to Mr. E. K. Young to look for minerals in the Pelatan and middle Barum.

The Superintendent of Lands and Surveys paid two visits to negotiate the acquisition of land by Government behind Marudi bazaar.

Trade

A small amount of antimony was got out of the Tiam, Tinjar area.

A great fuss was made at the occasion of the trip of the Ong Fung Yee, and the Sarawak Steamship Company eventually agreed to carry on with her schedule until September. Many towkays are already preparing to lure to Miri for the future but the costs of selling and buying are going to be increased due to lightering at Miri, godown storage there, transport by land between Miri and Kuala Barum, and transshipment at Kuala Barum. I hear some Kuching towkays have still not given up all hope of the service being continued after September.

A birds' nests auction held at Long Lama on 5th and 6th March brought in 100 kati 1 tial of nests, the average price being \$48 a kati and the highest price being \$12.88 per kati. Another auction held on 9th May brought in 98 kati 14 tial, with an average price of \$42.04 and a highest price of \$79.

Lord Midway visited the birds' nests caves and industry in May and is submitting some interesting recommendations for its reorganisation and improvement.

The Penan trade meeting in June at Lio Match was less attended than usual for many Penan were too ill with flu to look for deer and many who had collected it were too ill to bring it in.

Public Works

Work has been given up on trying to find a suitable road trace from Marudi to Miri. In all directions, except perhaps towards the east, sooner or later Marudi appears to be surrounded by miles and miles of peat varying from four to thirty feet deep.

White ants have appeared in the District Officer's bungalow.

A new Barum Peoples' Resthouse was completed partly paid for by central Government and partly by Barum District Council funds. The conversion of the old Native Resthouse into the Barum District Council office was nearly completed by the end of June.

The Supply Department Store was converted and made into a new Barum Recreation Club building (with the generous gift of \$5,000 from Government) and the old club building converted to become house for T.R. cases that have been sent out from the Miri hospital but are not yet fit to return home.

With free labour by the local people it was hoped the money available would be enough to erect wharves for Long Lama and for Long Atah. However when tenders were called for providing the materials on the spot, the prices were prohibitive, and so an order has been issued for building a Long Lama wharf only this year.

Tenders were called for the surfacing of Marudi bazaar roads. The lowest tender was over \$80,000 when the money available was \$20,000. Few tenders were called for a modified scheme but the lowest tender was still about \$30,000. Meanwhile the roads are still as horrible as ever.

Mr. Whitham and the Divisional Engineer made a preliminary reconnaissance for the site of the Marudi waterworks.

\$10,000 was available for making a start on Marudi airstrip. This was all used up in clearing and stamping an area of forty chains by four chains. The airport constructional engineer was Haji Wan Yudi.

In March two Royal Engineer Officers arrived to make a preliminary reconnaissance for blow-up rapids in the District, and then the main party arrived in June and are now well established at Long Atah.

A brick and cement superstore "B" quarter was completed.

Prisons

During the period under review there was a total of five prisoners, totalling 331 days in goal.

Travelling

The Hon'ble the Resident was in the District from 26.3.57 to 7.4.57 having hosted up to Lio Match, where he met the Hon'ble The Financial Secretary who flew in on 1st April and the two returned down river together. It was the first time post-war and possibly ever that the Miri Resident had visited Lio Match.

The District Officer flew into Baeris from Lawas on 23.3.57 and walked out via Seritan and then hosted down the Tutch and visited all the houses in Tutch and Apoh. It was most unfortunate that His Excellency the Governor was unable to land at Baeris as expected and could only wave at us from the plane. Data Zin Olan, Kapitan Ah Bah and Penghulu Balan Lejan travelled to Tutch and Apoh.

The District Officer accompanied by the Agricultural officer and Superintendent of Lands and Surveys visited the Tinjar and Penghulu Adia's area from 15.2.57 to 27.2.57.

The District Officer accompanied by his wife visited Long Apoh, the Atah as far as Long Duth and the Selangah and Lio Match from 4.6.57 to 23.6.57. Penghulu Entoi and Tama Uling and T. K. Hoson were on the trip.

Forest

The de-gazetting of part of Belura Forest Reserve around Rih, Garing is being proceeded with.

Education

The most northerly Poyat Huan school has staggered to its feet during the period under review, while Sungai Maling school is prospering and now has a second teacher, as has Belaga school, and Rih. Liban, Sarawak has built a school (though it has no prospect of obtaining a teacher) and Rih. Sungai Sungai Baling has produced a teacher and requested Government to pay his salary. So educationally the Huan areas are showing some improvement.

The Community Development School is now functioning. It is disappointing no Roman Catholic pupils could be found to join it.

New schools were opened at Lubok Borden, Kabaas, Long Bening, Long Anap, Long Barel, Long Ajpa, Lio Mjok, Long Selau and the Lapan Laja school moved to Long Tajai and the Long Lama school prepared to move to Long Lapan.

The Kolahis made it quite clear they were not prepared to pay school fees in cash. The Kolahis are by no means poor though they have very little cash, but it is expensive and wasteful to bring out their produce. They want schools and so the answer seems to be to obtain free labour from them instead of school fees, which is a cumbersome method but the only practical solution I can think of. The fear of having to pay school fees has meant a considerable reduction in school attendance in some cases during the last few months. The first time I tried to collect cash at Long Baitis as suggested in this paragraph the coolies concerned protested and said the parents must pay.

Long Baitis and Long Telangan have both built schools though there is no possibility of finding teachers for them this year.

Co-operative

It seems likely a new society will be formed amongst the Long Kipai Isles of Kempong Brayan. Other societies are carrying on quietly but completely due to the continued close supervision afforded by the Department.

Ranger Affairs

Out of the King George VI Memorial Fund, helped by public subscription a merry-go-round was erected and preparations were started for commencing the basket ball pitch at Marudi.

The Kay Bing cinema was opened on 6th February. This is the first brick building to be built in the District.

Local Authority

The Baram District Council was constituted and held its first meeting with a very long agenda on the 25th February.

Miscellaneous

I have been interested to find what appear to be undervalue and counterfeit 1959 notes with no name of country on them but are probably Sarawak dollars on people's belts and used as "harang peraka". I wonder where they are minted?

The annual "tree" of the Roman Evangelical Mission was held at Long Ajap at Baler.

The social occasion of the season was the marriage of Pengulu Gaa's daughter to Madang Baling the old drummer of Long Barel.

The Temonggong's family had more bad luck when his brother's peraka is now and magnificent new bridge is built in an accident and a lot of new roofing of the Temonggong's was lost. A new Government pension given to the Engineers was badly damaged on its first journey upriver to an accident.

Reports state that the Bungan religion having started by sweeping nearly all its pastangs is now beginning to build up its hindrances and pastangs.

There are signs that longhouse dwellers are disappointed in corrugated aluminium roofing and some are reverting to wooden shaps.

BINTULU DISTRICT

District Officer

Along Mustapha

Court

(1) Criminal. A Sen Dyrak, Jugi and Ngilambong, of ramah AMU Selangan was sentenced to four months' imprisonment by the District Court for committing an offence punishable under section 236 of the Penal Code. A second charge was also filed against him for using firearms without a licence contrary to section 5(1)(2) of the Arms and Explosives Ordinance and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment in addition to his first offence.

(2) Civil. There were twenty-nine cases heard during the first half year.

Crime

No serious crime was reported during the first half year.

Obituary

The death of T.K. Ahmad bin Teas of Tatan on 1st February, 1957, is deeply regretted.

Medical and Health

The S.O.L. Medical Officer, Dr. P. Abbott, at the request of the Sarawak Government paid a short visit to Bintulu District from 28th to 31st May, 1957, to investigate the source of an epidemic of diarrhoea and vomiting (Gastro-Enteritis). Report of his visit was submitted separately to the Hon'ble the Resident, Fourth Division.

Dr. Walker, Government Ophthalmologist, arrived at Bintulu by air on the 12th February, 1957, and returned to Kuching on the 19th.

Native Affairs

Requests for Pindak to this district by the Second Division Dayaks were simultaneously increasing. With the coming of the newly introduced migrant scheme schedule to start as from next year or so, Kakan and Pindak areas have been suggested for the new settlement. The area in question was inspected by the Migrant Officer from Kuching some time in June this year.

Four persons from Bintulu District left for Mazon on pilgrimages and are still away at the time of writing.

Hari Raya Pasa was celebrated as usual. The Muslim Mosque in Bintulu was packed to capacity with people who came to attend the services.

Local Authority

At the beginning of year all councillors stood for election to Fourth Divisional Advisory Council representing Bintulu District. The seven persons elected by the council were: Law Hang Chiao, Yaman bin Podel, T. R. Tajai, T. K. Johari, Pengulu Masi, Pengulu Abok and Pengulu Kana. In the Divisional Advisory Council held in Miri, the Yaman bin Podel, the only Bintulu member who stood for election, was elected to represent in the Council Negeri.

The Secretary of the council prosecuted one case relating to straying in poultry in the baram area. The accused person was subsequently fined in court. Nine ducks and one hen unclaimed by owners had been sold by public auction after information in the form of notice had been promulgated to the public for three successive days.

Chinese Affairs

With the exception of some disputes in connection with timber business among the local traders in Tatan, I have no knowledge of any case of extreme distress among the Chinese community.

Trade

There has been no change in the state of trade since I made my last report.

Shipping and Transport

In February, 1957, the M.L. *Rosa*, the launch allocated for this district, went to Kuching to undergo the shipping annual survey at the Brooke Dockyard.

She made many trips to Miri, Tatan, Niah and Sibuti. On one occasion she went to Miri to bring a party of Batu Lintang Student Teachers. The total number of miles steamed was 1,166 and number of passengers carried 281.

The R. & D. O. outboard transport continued to render river transport to various government departments which had no transport of their own.

Land

The number of applications for land prepared in this district for the first half year was 154.

Consular

An usual regular visits of police patrol to various places in the district have been carried out.

Traveling

A satisfactory travelling programme was carried out during the period of first half year by the Native Officer, and the Sarawak Administrative Officer.

Agriculture

In spite of the damage caused by wild boars to some parts of padi land in the old area the farmers in a whole have had better harvest than that of the previous year.

Prison

During the period under review there are twenty-one persons admitted into prison. The usual monthly visit to prison was made by the prison visiting board. Reports of this visit had been submitted separately to the authority concerned.

P.F.D.

The construction of lighthouse-keeper quarters at Kuching and the new Government office at Tatan had now been started. It is hoped to see the works of these two buildings completed before the budget closes.

Food Control

On the whole the 1956/57 padi harvest has produced a fairly good result. This has been proved by the fact that the total import of rice for the first half year has dropped considerably.

By raising the price of padi above the Government guaranteed price the dealers here have succeeded in buying most of the farmers' surplus padi, and because of this there has been a total absence of padi purchase during the period covering the first half year.

Education

The Local Authority schools managed by the council are (1) The Orang Kaya Mohamad (2) The Jepak (3) Tatan (4) Sebana (5) Pandan and (6) Labang. The total figure of pupils in these six schools is approximately 440.

Efforts are being made to construct a new school at Kampong Jepak, boarding houses at Sebana, Pandan and Labang and to repair the Orang Kaya Mohamad School at Bantala. Building plans have been forwarded to the Director of Education for consideration.

There are five aided Chinese schools in the whole district, the largest being the Bantala Chang Hwa School.

The St. Anthony's at Bantala and Bukit Nyala at Tatan are the two Mission-aided English schools. Of the two, St. Anthony's is larger insofar as total of pupils is concerned and is at present housed in a pre-war shop shed.

An application to start secondary classes in 1958 has been received from St. Anthony's School, Bantala, according to it is believed, to public requests. The matter is to be discussed and decided by the Standing Committee for Education sometime in July. General Comments from the public are that with the existence of secondary school in this district the people here could let their children continue their higher education within their means otherwise they could not afford to pay for their children's secondary education elsewhere owing to exorbitant expenses.

General

On the 25th January, 1957, H.E. the Governor Sir Anthony Foster Abell accompanied by his Private Secretary, Mr. R. J. Pole-Evans, arrived at the Bantala Airport on his way to Miri.

At the Airport H.E. inspected the Guard of Honour of Sarawak Contingent under Inspector Abdul Gapan, and was then introduced by the District Officer to members of Government staff, Local Authority Council and leaders of local communities who were waiting there.

Before he took off for Miri, His Excellency made a short tour in the Bantala town.

The Hon'ble the Resident, Fourth Division, accompanied by Messrs. G. W. Grillo and D. R. Bailey, arrived at Bantala by M.L. *Lorna Doree* on the 9th July, 1957. The Resident and party left for Tatan on the following day.

Mrs. G. W. Grillo was appointed District Officer, Bantala, on 15th July, 1957, to replace Abang Mustapha who went to Singapore on forty-nine days' leave.

Kavalkade of Dance

The Kavalkade of Dance held at the beginning of November was assembled round the pupils of the School of International Dancing with a number of items by older persons, however it remained for the most part a show by children, and when passing judgement upon the performances of children the critical faculty has to a large extent to be suspended. It must always be remembered that they are neither grown-ups nor professionals. On the other hand the natural sentimentality which one feels on seeing tiny tots performing on the stage—and at the same time trying, so anxiously, to see a relative in the front row—must not be allowed entirely to distort one's criticism.

There are still certain standards which it is reasonable to expect a performance to attain and I am happy to be able to say that Kavalkade of Dance fell short in but one respect and that to a large extent was offset by the excellence of the others. The production was smooth and despite large numbers of performers there was never a feeling that the show was a moment too long. I doubt if ever before such a well-dressed show has been seen in Kuching; the costumes were at all times gay and colourful and their variety was endless; how indeed was a 'tour de force'. It was a great pity that the stage lighting was so poor that the costumes were never seen at their best, even with the battery of hand operated floodlights which was flashed on from time to time.

Natali Kunal managed to gather together a very talented company and the result was a most enjoyable evening. There was not a turn that I felt would have

been better left out. Naturally the performances of the older members of the company were, from a technical point of view, the most enjoyable but it was quite obvious that the smaller children appealed to the audience every bit as much and in their case there was no doubt that the dancers themselves were enjoying what they did. The pleasure of seeing the show was considerably increased by the playing of the orchestra of the Sarawak Music Society which I had missed hearing before and to whose next public appearance I look forward with great anticipation.

For the idea of the Kuda-kuda of Dance, its general execution and production, Norah Kmal is to be heartily congratulated. She and all those who helped her whether as artists or behind the scenes must have worked extremely hard and both ATAS, for whose benefit this show was put on, and the public of Kuching are indeed grateful to them.

M. G.

Excerpts from the Sarawak Malaria Project Report for the Period 16th September to 15th October.

First and Second Divisions

Re-spraying operations continue. There has been a noticeable deterioration in co-operation from the Lund Dupais in the Kuching area (sprayed since 1955). In particular it is difficult to find guides to show us the farm huts. Every attempt will be made to improve relations before the next spraying which it is hoped it will be possible to delay until October 1958. This will depend on the results of infant blood slides now being examined.

In the Sarlan River area, on the other hand, where we are trying to stop transmission without spraying farm huts, the people complain that though longhouses are now insect free, nights spent in farm huts are intolerable due to mosquitoes.

The investigation of Positive infants from Bas shows that transmission is still taking place in sprayed structures.

Third Division

The whole of the difficult Kapit district has been sprayed, the Baluh area for the first time. One parasite and a fair amount of equipment was lost in the Kanbas headwaters. These accidents are bound to occur if we are to carry out operations according to plan. The morale of the squads, who continue their work directly after these depressing incidents, is noteworthy.

The results of the infant parasite rate are encouraging; transmission practically stopped during the first six months of spraying.

Fourth and Fifth Divisions

After the arduous spraying operation detailed in the last report, the unit was mainly occupied in entomological work. Mr. Kelvin Stott supervised the first spraying of the Limbang district of the Fifth Division by the Bruner spraying team. We are very grateful to the State Medical Officer, Bruner, this arrangement releases our unit for work elsewhere in the Fourth Division.

The results of the first post-spray survey in the Kolahit are encouraging.

The pre-spray parasite rate for the Lawas district seems to indicate a low endemicity of malaria. A subdivision of the survey results would show very high rates in the upriver areas, and low rates along the coast, but evidence of transmission throughout the area.

Malaria Surveys in Sarawak

The recognised method of estimating the amount of malaria in a community is by assessing the proportion of children with enlarged spleens and with parasites in their blood: this is done by palpating the abdomen, and by the examination of a drop of blood squeezed onto a glass slide after puncturing the skin of a finger or toe with a sharp needle, a comparatively painless procedure.

Surveys have been carried out throughout Sarawak and a more or less set technique has now been standardised.

The survey team, consisting of a Malarialogist and two technicians, one to write, the other to make blood films, enters the longhouse and makes its way to the verandah opposite the Tan Kampong's room. Here they either sit down or fall down, according to the distance already walked.

In this description of a survey it will be assumed that the longhouse people are in residence. The survey of a longhouse deserted because everyone has gone to their farms is a rather brief fiasco. Our routine survey has more points of resemblance to a comedy.

After removing shoes and socks and passing the time of day, the survey opens with a description of the malaria scheme, benefits to be achieved, co-operation needed and so on. This recital usually holds the audience but, during a recent survey in the Ulu Lemasak, the writer had hardly started before the Tan Kampong interrupted to say that he had heard all this before at the Kadis; that we had been spraying in March for several years; that he was pleased his longhouse was now to be included, and about time too. The writer of this article pretends to work through an interpreter than to surmise his poor Malay. It gives a better opportunity for watching the effect on the consumer. But after the tenth longhouse it is necessary to avoid merely saying to the technician: "Give them the usual routine" and then turn to it pouring out just like the official guide describing how the Hindu prince in the Tower met their fate.

The lecture ends up by pointing out that, to find out how much malaria there is in the longhouse, the children must be examined. After examining the children, we will endeavour to treat general complaints from the small supply of medicines that we have happened to bring along with us. There is no opposition to this plan and the survey proceeds.

The first few children examined are the keys to the success of the survey. At all costs screams must be avoided. If one screams, they all scream. The writer finds the full-bodied screams of the three-year old even more piercing than the short-range wailing of the early morning blue cock. It is very difficult to find the spleen of a consumer. The only method is to hold your hand over the spleen and wait till the child takes a breath, this inflates the muscles and the enlarged spleen can be felt. This usually develops into a battle of wills between the examiner and the child; so far the examiner has always succeeded; the only way the child can win is by stopping breathing permanently.

If a consumer can be avoided in the first dozen children examined, the whole survey may proceed quietly. Even very small infants will allow their toes to be pricked with nothing more than a phlegmatic smile.

Disaster occurs when a close relative of the Tan Kampong, endeavouring to show co-operation, threatens forward a two-year-old—the lowest age group—who is determined not to show co-operation. It is difficult to rebuke the host politely and once hostile is joined the other children are changed from interested onlookers to fearful but hostile non-co-operators.

The best examiners to commence the survey are the nine-year-old boys. They are too proud to cry (usually) and once examined rush off to bring in their friends who are shuffling about outside the longhouse.

An interruption is almost always caused by a middle-aged woman who throws herself down at the examiner's feet and puts her abdomen, inviting examination. She has to be turned away with the equivalent of "You're no baby"; once the treatment of rheumatism is confined with survey, chaos reigns.

Eventually the screaming age has to be attacked and the only thing to do is to face it, like having a tooth drilled. It usually turns out that it is the pale face of the Malarologist that has caused the trouble, after the spleen palpation, the blood examination nearly always passes off without any trouble. I suspect that in Sarawak the "whiteman" is used to bully small children in the same way as the "policeman" in Europe.

In almost all kampongs there are one or two inaccuracies; of these all should beware. Usually poor mother gets bitten, but the examiner, the blood-taker and even the inoffensive man writing down the names have, on occasion, received a nasty nip.

At about this stage a sensation is created by a two-year-old who marches up, throws himself at the feet of the examiner, is examined, walks over to the blood slides thrusts out a hand, is pricked without a murmur and then re-enters the circles of astonished spectators wearing a "What a good boy am I" expression.

Eventually the supply of willing children or unwilling children, carried by their mothers, begins to dry up. Usually several girls in the 12-year age-group are seen lurking in the background, obviously trying to try out the "Where are you? Come and find me" technique.

The Malarologist considers it unbefitting to his professional dignity to get involved in that game. Wiles rather than brute force are employed. Anyhow the girls move much too fast.

The first gambit is to ask the Tua Kampong "How many doors in his longhouse?" This seemingly innocent remark is not a social opening. It allows the Malarologist, if his mental arithmetic is up to it, to employ the C.F.D. factor (expected number of Children Per Door) and discover about how many remain to be examined.

This usually reveals that a considerable number have not been caught. A fair number are actually standing there, but when mother puts out a hand to lead the little pet forward he stamps his little foot and runs away. Everyone sniffs and someone says "The little dear! He's frightened."

The next ploy is for the Malarologist to express genuine surprise he has visited hundreds of longhouses, in all the others there has been a rush to be examined. A picture is painted of the children falling in, tallest on the right, shortest on the left, numbering off, tugging to the right and marching up for examination. This ruse is usually treated with the contempt it deserves and little impression is made. But when it is seen that the Malarologist will not give up at the first setback and that medicine will not be dispensed until the survey is finished, a few more children are coaxed out of the rooms where they have been hiding.

The second ploy is to point out that the survey team has been sent by the Government and that one is horrified to think of the reaction in the Secretariat when one returns to Kuching and reports that Kampong X only produced 75 per cent of its children for examination. This ridiculous lie has much more success than it deserves, the mere mention of the word "Pencinta" produces a reaction that would make an anarchist blush. More little treasurers are produced and usually some of the twelve-year-old girls come forward.

A few co-operative twelve-year-old females make all the difference to the success of a survey. If you

whisper in one's ear as you feel for her spleen, "Go on, go and bring the others". She runs off in a self-important way and comes back carrying children about whom even their parents had forgotten.

Eventually the survey is completed and the treatment of patients begins. At this stage, particularly if it is the middle of the morning, the Malarologist must be beginning to appear fatigued. He is often asked if he would care for a drink and it is hoped that he will spend the night in the longhouse.

The drink is postponed after pointing out the terrible results of a drunken Malarologist treating the wrong diseases with the wrong pills. The delay involved in preparing to spend the night at 11 a.m. is avoided by blaming the hard-hearted Government for imposing such a tight schedule that several houses have to be visited in one day.

Treatment finished and refreshment taken, the survey team shambles down from the verandah, into the perahu and on to the next longhouse.

More about the new stamps

By now we are all used to the new stamps, and have experimented with the different methods of making up 30 cents to stick on an air letter: there being no 15-cent stamp or 5-cent stamp, this imposes a certain mental strain on the average Government officer (I have found). The set includes several good stamps, and several not so good. This assessment of the artistic value of the stamps is, of course, a personal one; but I have attempted to indicate the criteria on which I have judged the stamps.

The one-cent stamp has hardly any contrast in tone and no attempt at composition. When looked at from a distance of about three inches it can be seen that three men are rolling a log on a wood truck away from the observer. The value of the stamp is indicated in a peculiar box with rounded corners in the extreme left-hand top corner. The Queen's head is in a medallion which is perched on what appears to be a column, but on closer inspection proves to be a truncated tree trunk. There is a nondescript pattern in a strip down the left-hand side.

The two-cent stamp is the better. It is almost certainly the worst ever produced in Sarawak. J. C. R. Fisher summed it up well: "It shows a rather ungainly (baby?) man (apart doing its level best to get off the stamp). It is also not clear what it is standing on, but it could be a billiard table." *Sarawak Gazette*, November 1956. There is an interesting pattern that goes round three sides of the stamp, and is composed of a row of "Y" shaped symbols, alternately reversed. For good measure, in top right there is a whole cluster of them and several dots in between. The stamp is printed in an unattractive orange colour. It is far worse than the previous two-cent stamp which was also the worst of the set.

The four-cent stamp, with a Kayan dancing, is good. The figure is clear and distinct and not mixed up in a busy background. The value is printed clearly, not as though it has been stuck on afterwards in a box. The only fault, to my mind, are a rather stark attitude of the figure, and an unnecessary and peculiarly illogical border that detracts from the line of the medallion showing the Queen's head.

The six-cent stamp, of a hornbill, is mediocre. It is spoilt by a busy background of leaves, and a foreground of dark leaves that appear to be of banana plants, and which obscure the tail of the bird. The value is shown in a peculiar box.

The eight-cent stamp and the nine-cent stamp are clearly drawn and pleasingly placed. The stamp is framed by a dark border containing a meaningless leaf

design that looks as though it has been traced from vietnamese wallpaper. The colour is paler than the red on the old stamps, and is quite pleasing.

The *ten-cent* stamp is competently designed, but for perhaps not is quite out of character with the rest of the set. There is no busy border, the design of the Kenyah carving is clear, the value is clear, and the only ornamentation is some flourishes which are not displeasing. It seems certain that this was designed by someone who had nothing to do with the rest.

The *twelve-cent* stamp, of a sailing boat, is similar to the six-cent. It has faults in composition, namely, poor placing of the ship, with the tips of the sail in contact with two edges of the stamp, and the sail cut into by the box bearing the value, and a peculiar irregular dark strip in the foreground, which cuts through the arms of Sarawak with an unfortunate effect. It looks as though it was added as an afterthought, to give a contrasting background to the word "Sarawak".

The *fifteen-cent* stamp is clumsy enough, but entirely lacking in contrast of tone. Again the sea is stylized but the turtles are not, and the top turtle doesn't even look like *Vincent Maurer*, which all good turtles do, in life.

The *twenty-cent* stamp is a happy one. The colours are restrained and pleasant. With two colours a greater degree of detail can be shown, and it is not so easy (as) to have a simple strong design. This possibility is well exploited. But the surroundings to the picture (of a basket-weaving Melanau woman) are unimaginative, to say the least. The value is put in a square box at the bottom left; the word "Sarawak" in another, lower, box, along the base; and the sovereign's head in another box at the right. The medallion is surrounded by what looks like an "artist's impression" of an Iban design.

The *twenty-five-cent* stamp is very good. This Agassiz is clearly shown and there is no busy ornamentation. It is definitely an "old-style" stamp, but none the worse for that.

The *thirty-cent* stamp is an old acquaintance. It is undistinguished and poorly designed. So it is a pity no better design was forthcoming for the *fifty-cent* stamp.

The *one- and two-dollar* stamps are homely. The Agassiz portrait of Her Majesty is so beautifully engraved that even the silly and meaningless border does not detract much. The electric purple of the two-dollar is daring and effective. It would be a great advance if this design could be substituted for the thirty- and fifty-cent stamps at some future date.

The *five-dollar* stamp is as before. It is a good design and it was wise to retain it.

In conclusion, the following is my assessment (of course, a matter of personal opinion) of the set:

Excellent	: 53, 52, 51, 15c., 10c.
Good	: 8c., 4c.
Moderate	: 12c., 6c., 30c., 50c.
Poor	: 15c., 1c.

In a class of its own: 3c.

I currently hope that the last three, at least, can be replaced in the near future.

N.S.R.

Error

In the October issue of the *Sarawak Gazette*, under "Reports from Administrative Officers", Mr. Austin Coates was described as the Acting District Officer for Kuching. Mr. Coates is in fact the District Officer.

Kuching Boat Club

Scraps Results—22nd November, 1957.

Heat 1.	Heat 2.
1st No. 127 171.00	1st No. 204 1113.00
2nd No. 211 156.00	2nd No. 178 8 56.00
3rd No. 116 110.00	
Starters:	Starters:
128, 123, 141 86.00 each.	195, 197, 211 186 111.00 each.
Heat 3.	Heat 4.
1st No. 271 181.00	1st No. 284 1013.00
2nd No. 187 168.00	2nd No. 207 8 36.00
	3rd No. 211 8 38.00
Starters:	Starters:
151, 150, 217 113.00 each.	171, 208, 213, 275, 309, 367 94.00 each.
Heat 5.	Heat 6.
1st No. 264 197.00	1st No. 174 1111.00
2nd No. 238 168.00	2nd No. 190 8 36.00
3rd No. 170 124.00	
Starters:	Starters:
185, 217, 264 88.00 each.	245, 405, 517, 518.00 each.
Heat 7.—250 SP/2275.	
1st No. 190 1761.00	
2nd No. 1317 1381.00	
3rd No. 2430 1096.00	
Starters:	
No. 2044 1403 1365	
1587 2683 1215	
2286 227.00 each.	

SCRUTINEERS: Miss Thekla Baird, Messrs. D. B. J. Porter, A. C. Smith and M. E. Fitzgibbon.

Recent Books

Additions to the Sarawak Library during the month of November, 1957:

AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE
	Fiction		Non-Fiction
Camus, Albert	<i>The outsider</i> (1957)	Hampden, John, editor	<i>The book world index</i> (1957)
Cass, Manning	<i>Death of an ambassador</i> (1957)	Hartmann, John Terence	<i>Spanish writers</i> (1946)
Collins, John	<i>His monkey wife</i> (1957)	Harris, Christopher	<i>Travels and travels of Ruy de</i>
Compton-Burnett, Joy	<i>Preserving innocence</i> (1957)		<i>1554</i>
De Bora, Edith	<i>A father and his boy</i> (1957)	Hollman, Edith	<i>Expressionism</i> (1956)
Donna, Nigel	<i>Science fiction</i> (1957)	Howell, Edward	<i>Europe in Asia. Enlarged ed.</i> (1957)
Gravish, Giovanni	<i>Cash of identity</i> (1956)	Jain-Rahay, Girard	<i>The ten dharmas: a religious biography of Jivraj Chavda</i> (1957)
Hoad, Benjamin	<i>Don Camillo and the priest</i> (1957)	Kaufman, Orson	<i>Foreigner's notes in China</i> (1957)
Howe, Benjamin	<i>The women in the East</i> (1956)	Lang, John	<i>Western Russia: an introduction</i>
Howe, Fred	<i>The Moon child</i> (1957)		(1957)
Lewis, Myron	<i>Conquering</i> (1957)	Maclean, Philip	<i>Disputed territory: the life and times of Jimmy Hoo-Pan. War and of Fugueville</i> (1957)
Lindner, Philip	<i>Through midnight streets</i> (1957)		<i>Spanish history</i> (1956)
Maharaj, John	<i>The deserters</i> (1957)	Maiz, E. P. B. and	
Maharaj, John	<i>For, for the mountain peak</i> (1957)	Maiz, G.	
Maharaj, John	<i>For the moon in night</i> (1957)	Malabar, A. Y. and	<i>A book of songs (1956-1958)</i> (1957)
Maharaj, John	<i>The Philippines</i> (1957)	Blackwell, Basil H.	
Maharaj, John	<i>The Moon child</i> (1957)	Malabar, Basil	<i>Frontier</i> (1956)
Maharaj, John	<i>A lot of water</i> (1957)	Marshall-Cook, John C.	<i>Peintured concepts</i> (1957)
Maharaj, John	<i>Caprice rebel</i> (1957)	Marshall, Christopher	<i>The Tenth</i> (1957)
		Norris, C. M.	<i>Building the power: a short history of British Civil engineering</i> (1956)
	Non-Fiction	Oakum, Percy George	<i>A complete law dictionary</i> (1956)
Abraham, J. J.	<i>Supposedly innocent</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>A hundred years of philosophy</i>
Anderson, M. E.	<i>Questions and answers on religion</i>		(1957)
Archibald, George	<i>Questions and answers on religion</i>	Panama, John	<i>Young stars in China</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Unsettled conditions: an Indian expedition to the Comoros Islands</i>
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)		(1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Educational and social change in tropical areas</i> (1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Religion for the citizen</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Commander: a short history of the River War, with a preface by Gen. Sir M. M. F. C. Smith, 2nd ed.</i> (1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Simple religion</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>The American presidency</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>The expansion of Elizabethan England</i>
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	(1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>The monkey kingdom: an introduction to the primates</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Culture</i> (1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Navigation</i> (1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>The London Cape</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>The true meaning of Christianity</i>
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	(1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Conquering glory</i> (1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>British Guinea: the land of its people</i> (1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Know your faith: questions and answers about Catholic belief and practice</i> (1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Deuter: Contemporary: the story of Dr. Grandly Bird Bird</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>The right-to-life: the story of the battle of the Scheldt</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>The great religions</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Fighting boys of the world</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>The Greek home</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Life in Scotland: a world apart</i>
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	(1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Many King from A to Z</i> (1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Elizabeth Fey: Quaker heroine</i>
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	(1956)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>A piece of my mind: reflections on life</i> (1957)
Baker, T. Graham	<i>Not to be known about</i> (1957)	Panama, John	<i>Palace of love by the Earl of Mather</i> (1957)

Rushline Market Price List

(continued)

Label	White	Government	Mailed	...	...
Local	White	Government	Mailed	...	1.42
Local	White	Mailed	...	...	1.11
State	"A"	...	...	...	1.13
State	"B"	...	...	...	...
State	"C"	...	...	...	1.70
State	Broken	...	...	...	1.80
Response	...	...	...	...	...

[M]([C] + [A]) = (per mole)					
White	Sugar	100	100	100	100
Orange	Sugar	100	100	100	100
Yellow	Sugar	100	100	100	100

Wheat Flour per bush	....	....	....	.17
Oats per small bush	....	....	....	.19
Oats per large bush	....	....	....	.26

(c) Nonfat					.70
Library Brand					.60
Child Model					.11
M&M Brand					.70
(d) Local Fresh Milk per pint					.80

Turtle	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Black, female	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Black, subadult	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Red	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

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Butter per lb.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Coconut Oil	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Peanut Oil	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Lard No. 1	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Lard No. 2	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Eggs	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Chocolate	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Leaf No. 1	...	...	...	1.5
Leaf with Pet. No. 2	...	...	...	1.6
Pet.	...	...	...	1.2
Stem	...	...	...	1.0

Red, steel	...	...	2.00
Red, Cherry metal	...	...	1.50
Bullfinch No. 1	...	...	2.00
Bullfinch Navy metal	...	...	1.50
Mutton (Australasian)	...	...	2.00
Mutton (New)	...	...	1.50

Figure 1

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Copies	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
Chinese Cards	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Polio	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Chinese News	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Deputy Period	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Deeds	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ministry	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Green-Blood	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Land	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

100

Fresh	Fish	No. 1	.....	.....	.....	2.00
Fresh	Fish	No. 2	.....	.....	.....	1.75
Fresh	Fish	No. 3	.....	.....	.....	1.50
Preserv.	No. 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.80
Preserv.	No. 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.75
Chick	No. 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.25
Chick	No. 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.80
Salted	Fish	No. 1	.....	.....	.....	1.40
Salted	Fish	No. 2	.....	.....	.....	1.10
Salted	Fish	No. 3	.....	.....	.....	1.00

100

Course	200	200	200	200	100
Fee	200	200	200	200	100
Notes					

WILLIAM P. BERRY

[illegible]

Time, English	00:00	00:05	00:10	00:15
Time, Chinese	00:00	00:05	00:10	00:15

Rate, Jan. Mo. 1, Local	...	...	1.75
Rate, Mo. 2	...	...	1.00
Reserve	...	...	0.25

Plating, finished per lead	0.00	0.00	11
Plating, finished	0.00	0.00	30
Plating	0.00	0.00	50
Stock, lead, per lead	0.00	0.00	30

100

Bacon cured per piece	.....	\$0.12
Bacon cake white per piece	.....	0.16
Bacon cake yellow per piece	.....	0.17
Blackens per lot	.....	0.07
Charcoal per pound	.....	1.90
Cornmeal, fresh south	.....	0.08
Corned Beef per tin	.....	1.25
Corned Peas per lot	.....	0.08
Cornmeal Oil per tin	.....	1.50
Coyonine Oil per bottle	.....	0.08
Mutton Local per ton	.....	25.00
Mutton imported per ton	.....	30.00
Tong, washing local per bar	.....	0.05
Tong, washing imported per bar	.....	0.06
Lardons per tin	.....	1.25
Sardines per tin	.....	0.05
Beef Wood, per partridge	.....	20.00

Flavors per packet of 10	.....	1.00	.....	.40
Rough Kibitz per packet of 10	.....	1.00	.....	.50
Caravan "A"		1.00		.40
Trench Light		1.00		.50
State Supreme		1.00		1.50
Caravan per packet of 20		1.00		



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The Sarawak Gazette



To Wish You
Happiness and Prosperity

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1958

The Editors