

Sarawak Gazette

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 1959

Birth

YOUNG. At Kuching General Hospital, on 15th October, 1959, to Margaret and Bob Young, a son.

Clothopper

In his recent half-yearly report, excerpts of which were published in the previous issue of this journal, the District Officer, Saribas, recalls the story of a local teacher who, moved to desperation by the ill-effects of a pupil, excoriated the wretched boy by telling him that he was good for nothing but to be a farmer. This withering condemnation should give to think all who are concerned for the future of the country. The District Officer remarked that, sampling opinion amongst teachers and those concerned with the running of schools, he concluded that while twenty-five per cent had no clear idea as to what was the purpose of schooling, a solid sixty per cent affirmed their faith that children were sent to school in order that they might be absorbed into the government service. As there are some twelve hundred Sarak children in school in the Saribas District, a considerable administrative extension will be necessary if they are all to be assimilated. One has visions of a vast Circumlocution Office at Borneo, which will absorb the school-leavers from Primary 3 upwards. Yet the present economy of the country could with difficulty sustain such an establishment. If Shell ceases oil, or if uranium be discovered, it would no doubt be feasible, though even then it might probably be more economic to grant life pensions to all school-leavers in the Saribas. Some

servage as interim stage of development, when crowds of school-leavers, being disappointed of government employment, will seek to support themselves by crime and violence, thus necessitating a large expansion of the constabulary, which will in turn absorb the remaining school-leavers; but such a balance could not be maintained for long. The problem, in short, is a serious one, and many seek a quick solution by saying that if these be the results of education, a stop should be put to it.

Yet a sober appraisal of the evidence suggests that education of itself does not incapacitate people for productive labour. To cite an instance in support of this: recently the nucleus of an important meeting in the Secretariat, Kuching, was unexpectedly relieved by the sudden appearance of a group of young women outside the window, who mounted ladders and set about painting the window frame. They were very pretty young ladies and were seen to such advantage that many of those taking part in the discussion within went at once distracted and rebuffed. A feature of the young ladies, which at the time attracted little attention, was that several had received a secondary education. They appeared to point some the worse for the fact.

To under the problems of education and agriculture is impossible. If in the economy of interior peoples education is a menace, then agriculture is a disaster, for they languish in a system of barbarism which is barely adequate to maintain them in indolence and idleness, which is little more than a life-sentence of hard labour. No boy of spirit, who has acquired even a grounding in letters, is willing to revert on his life to so little purpose, while even a remote chance remains that he may secure more profitable employment elsewhere; hence the flight of the more capable from so frustrating an existence. Yet without these young men how can any change be wrought? Agricultural communities which drive out the young and the able condemn themselves of atrophy and destruction: the blighted desolation of the Scottish Highlands and the sudden despol of Canea are sad examples.

But if it be granted that the educated young men should return to their communities and reform their agricultural practice, immediately will be encountered the perennial agricultural problem of the lion and the egg. If the educated youth is to return to the land, farming must be modernized, for otherwise it will lack any economic incentive, and it is in general more interesting to live in destitution in a town rather than in a hovelhouse. On the other hand unless the educated youth returns to the land it is difficult to see how any change can be effected in rural economy. In the past agricultural revolutions have been the work of dreaming young men of capacity, merely educated in the classics, who have shown that there is money in civility and so have changed the practices of generations: a community is influenced by the success of one in their midst, rather than by the gospel of illiterate departmental preachers.

One of the most urgent problems today in Sarawak is how to plough back into the land intelligent young Saraks. The solution remains to be found.

Parting Word

Speech by the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, at the Marketing Municipal Council Sarawak dinner on October 31, 1939.

I cannot pretend, Mr. President, that this is a very jolly occasion for me. In spite of the excellent dinner, your warm hospitality and your beautiful gift, it is not much fun saying goodbye to friends and leaving a country where one has been happier than anywhere else in the world.

I shall take away with me many happy memories of the generosity and kindness of the people of this country, rather blurred memories of gay evenings in longhouses, of the colour and open-hearted hospitality of Hari Raya, and of many a Chinese New Year when champagne flowed, as it never will again for me, like water before they put the rates up. All of us have here experienced the same sort of thing and we are all inclined to take it for granted until we have to go elsewhere and leave, alas, the shores of Borneo.

It is very nearly ten years ago that I was appointed to the governorship of Sarawak and was asked to submit myself to the Colonial Office doctor. After a cursory glance, the doctor said, "Is your digestion all right?" I said that "so far it had proved adequate in normal circumstances". To which the doctor replied, "You will find that circumstances in Sarawak are not normal. What you will require is a cat-tail constitution, a stomach lining of asbestos and hollow legs". I think after ten years he was right but I would say now that the new Governor will require very clear eyes which are not always easy to achieve in Sarawak, and a good deal younger ones than mine to see into the future.

I came here at a time of importance to Sarawak. This country was recovering from the Japanese occupation but there was a good deal of political discussion and the people had to decide what to do about it. Were they going to knockle down to the job of recovery for this country? Were they going to allow bitterness to rule? And in their typical Sarawak way they came to their decision quietly but with determination with the results which we see around us today.

Now I am leaving at a time when maybe there is a turning point in Sarawak's history. The same sort of decision has to be made and it can only be made honestly and fearlessly by the people of this country.

Growing political consciousness naturally produces a more critical attitude to many of our one-going ways. There are many good and sincere people who feel that we are not going fast enough and that an acceleration in the educational process towards self-government is due and they are forming associations to give strength to their view. That is quite right and proper. This is a natural and healthy development which no one can or would deny, but the pace at which we proceed in these matters is one of concern not only to us in Kuching who are relatively well educated but to every citizen, the farmer and the fisherman, all of us. Party politics have taken a hold in certain places of Sarawak and once they get started the past has shown that they usually come to stay.

Now the people of this country have a decision to make and I feel they should make it clear for a start to the new political leaders that it is all right for them to strive for a more efficient, a more representative and a more stable government, if they can achieve that with party politics that is justified, that is what we all want, but when the people of Sarawak are not going to allow in a break of the old friendly traditions of this country. This country has gone a long way in the last hundred years. It has worked out for itself a way of life which it has found to be satisfactory to itself and the envy of many other people. What the

people must clearly show is that they are not going to allow our progress to be jeopardised and our happiness threatened by ideas borrowed from elsewhere, not clearly understood and maybe of doubtful benefit to us.

I remember when I came here whether I travelled the people wanted to know if I would follow the customs, the traditions of this country. And I said yes I would do so and I believe I have done my best to do so. And I don't think it is too much to ask now when I leave that the people of this country should also follow their own traditions, the traditions of kindness and friendliness. I have been reported to be against politics and politicians—that is not so. I am not a politician myself and never will be but I do understand their ambitions and respect most of their motives. I think they have a part to play in this country and I think they have come to stay. I only ask in Sarawak that they should not, for the sake of personal ambition, undermine or destroy the character of a country we all love and try to serve.

I know that it is not easy to find a quick and satisfactory solution to these problems. Other countries have had to face the same sort of dilemma and have on occasion reached the wrong solution by taking it in that haste and by allowing the issues to be fogged by the ambition of individuals who wish to demonstrate to the world their own political sophistication. I have confidence that Sarawak in her own good time will find a solution to these as to other difficult problems she has to face, because I believe we have two great assets.

Firstly, there are our much talked of happy race relations. These are a fact, in spite of the over-emphasis placed upon them by travellers from neighbouring countries where they are absent.

Some of our neighbours have, I believe, lost this asset and are trying hard, rather late in the day, to get it back, because they know, and we must remember, that if you are born in a plural society, as we are, there is no alternative except disintegration or domination by one race. This vital asset is rather precariously poised on foundations which are showing the unmistakable signs of wear and tear and it is up to us to realise that fact and each one of us should do what we can to repair those foundations before the whole structure totters and falls to our heads.

It is not sufficient to blame other people when it is too late. It is not sufficient to say that it is an old trick of the British, they've done it before—they divide people by creating racial differences. We know, all of us, that this is indeed poppycock.

It is my greatest desire and the Government's most urgent task to foster the best possible race relations in this country, to preserve and strengthen them, because we know that without them this country cannot prosper and my own and the Government's mission will have failed.

Our second great asset is this: there is a sound consciousness in the people of this country which refuses to allow them to be humiliated by the Government or any other disturbing innovators without very careful scrutiny of their credentials and intentions. I believe that the people of Sarawak want to go forward as much as anyone else but they are a bit conservative and wary and want to see their way ahead clearly and want to know where they are being led.

These two assets are vital to our future and will stand us in good stead if we cherish them. We have made considerable material progress since the war because of the determination and hard work of the people of the country and because they have had, on the whole, a good reason for their industry, and because they have had a stable government. A knowledge or a glimpse of the world will quickly show the value of a stable government. You will have a stable government

in Sarawak as long as you allow these two assets to rule events: good race relations and sound common-sense which are expressed in terms of national and civic responsibility.

You, my hosts, have shown clearly during your term of office the application and practice of these assets to the business of local government. You have worked as a team under your wise and able President. You can be proud of your achievements and the services you have given the people of Kuching, but proudest of all of the example you have set to all in Sarawak is the soundness of judgments and the fairness of your decisions, unswayed by any taint of partisanship. The Municipal elections drew near. I hope everyone, the electors and the candidates, will conduct themselves as they did on the last occasion with our traditional dignity and sense of fair play. I hope that the public of Kuching will show the good sense that they did in 1956 and give to this city a ruling body of upright and devoted citizens who will do credit to the capital of a country which is as pleasant and as promising a land as I have seen.

I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me this last memory of your hospitality and the kindness of the people of Kuching.

Calendar—1960

The recently published Calendar of Sarawak is a worthy member of the series, now firmly established as a very convenient Christmas card, and marketed at \$1.00. It has long grown out of the "Thin Girl bathing" stage, and is presenting a varied and adult collection of photographs. The printing is of a high standard, with the exception of one or two pictures which are marred by black spots, possibly due to a recorded black. Even the dates given are impeccable, although Sarawak Public Holidays could perhaps have been discreetly indicated.

Perhaps it is now the time to ask just what are the criteria for judging a calendar of this sort, and what is being aimed at. Since these calendars go all over the world, the impression of Sarawak they give is important.

Firstly, of course, the calendar should be pictorially pleasing, and be composed of pictures all of which can be looked at on and off for a fortnight without palling. It should be informative, and give a balanced and accurate view of Sarawak life and scenery. With this in mind, we can turn to the latest calendar, and see how far it succeeds.

This issue, for the first time, has a colour cover, of local celebrities at Miri, by Hilda Morrison. Interesting to fashion seems is the two-piece lounge suit worn by the last basketball player.

Chinese school concert: Mee Kong Studio, is an initial disappointment. It has the merit of action, but otherwise the composition is uninteresting and the content dull. A slice of the audience would have been more interesting.

Kuching waterfront to-day: Abang Razali, has an interesting idea in that it shows the traditional view of Kuching from the Borneo Company offices, with a row of parked cars (1958 models) in the foreground. It appears to have been taken about noon on an overcast day, which has resulted in little actual contrast and uninteresting cloud effects.

Kuala Mulu: Peter Mooney, is technically good, conveys the mood of a quiet coastal village, and has interesting textural contrasts, but there is no real source of interest and the composition is unexciting.

Young Scouts swim: Sarawak Museum, is full of interest, though a closer viewpoint would have been better, and would have brought out the texture of the bathers. The printing of this picture is not so good, as there are many small black dots.

Reading the Koran: Hilda Morrison, is, to my mind, the best of the lot, and is packed with interest—pictorial, sociological, even gastronomic. The blend of traditional costume and ceremony with the Radio Sarawak microphone seems perfectly natural. The texture and shape of the numerous eggs is echoed with happy and harmonious effect by the toes of the man on extreme right, and the rim of black acapitols on the left is especially pleasing. The picture looks deceptively easy, but the most interesting camera angle has been unerringly selected.

Limbang Kaba: Moribiki Osman, is taken from an interesting, if conventional angle. The mood is one of peaceful decrepitude, which I imagine Limbang can wear at times. The print is rather flat and dull, and the sky is uninteresting.

Tomongging Owing Loral An, M.B.E.: Sarawak Museum, is another winner. The shrewd and astute chief, in magnificent head-dress, is flanked by two representation girls, married and unmarried,—it seems impossible that they are thinking about anything. Behind, the intelligent and alert face of the youth perhaps symbolises the type of the future leaders of the Borneo. The flash technique used does not bring out the modelling of the faces, but the resultant black surround to the heads adds dramatic effect.

B. Thomas's School Sports: Philip Jones, is full of action. I don't like it much, but cannot quite say why.

Lord Daphn boy: G.S.I.S., has a coy and self-conscious expression, and the background is nearly as boring and obscuring, as is the moving right hand, which could with advantage have been trimmed off.

Market Street, Kuching, during the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, February 1959: G.S.I.S., does not compensate for its technical and pictorial inferiority by the mammoth title. The pole of the "no left-turn" sign on the left is in focus, but nothing else is. There appears to be some over-exposure materialising in the bottom left-hand corner.

Balai Ringin: An Young Nang Gun, has a calm atmosphere, interesting tonal contrasts, and a certain quiet charm. The caption ("A typical example . . .") seems incorrect; the view is actually Balai Ringin bazaar.

Meditation in prayer at a Chinese Temple: An Young Nang Gun, suffers from a lack of a focal point of interest or action.

Tamsa Jasing with his regiment: I. A. N. Ungphart. A fascinating face and an interesting pose—but it is a pose. I imagine Tamsa Jasing does not play his *gonghu* in the hot sun except at the request of a photographer.

Malay assassins: Hilda Morrison, does not reach the very high standard of Mrs. Morrison's other pictures, in my opinion. The depth of focus is too great to make the figures stand out from the background of faces which is in consequence distracting.

Collecting illipe nuts: Lim Poh Chiang, is a rather dull river scene, which shows five empty praus and one with four people in it. How illipe nuts come into it is not clear.

Mr. Lim Poh Chiang's New commercial building at Sib. is, however, a winner. Taken in an interesting light (8.15 a.m.?) with an interesting sky and from a suitable, if unattractive, angle, the picture combines pictorial and documentary merit. The clouds

of cyclists, and the brand new building (one a comparatively palace with "Wharf Labourer's Union" running in 4-foot letters along each facade) bear witness to Sarawak's prosperous and booming trade, and, incidentally, its uncompromising Chinese character. Even numerous black spots from the printing block hardly mar the excellence of the picture.

Durian seller: Heikla Morrison, is another minor masterpiece, pictorially and technically excellent, completely natural, and typically Sarawakian.

Holding sail, Sarawak: Sarawak Museum, shows three chaps in a boat waiting to have their photograph taken. On the right are the shadows of half a dozen other people who are dutifully waiting.

From bathing place: Heikla Morrison, is carefully taken against the light. The circle of reflected light formed by the ripples in the foreground, contrasting with the angles and triangles formed by the five persons in the background, fill the picture with interest. Once again an experienced and sensitive eye has sought out the best camera angle.

*Peta Lintang, Kuching—*the site of the new Teacher Training College, lying beyond the private housing estate is the centre: Philip Jones. I like aerial views, and though this is not one of the best, it will give hours of innocent amusement for those peering out the angle it was taken from (clear: Islamic Hall is right foreground). The site of the new teachers' training college is a flat piece of land where three trees are growing.

Slow Loris: Sarawak Museum, is apparently taken at noon (when no self-respecting loris would be abroad) with a lens aperture so large that only the fur on the back is in focus. It is evidently taken at high speed, for surely no loris could stay in that position. Fortunately the temptation to retit it "Look, boys, no hands" has been resisted.

Relaxing washing at Kuching: I. A. N. Urquhart, looks almost like detail from a picture by Hieronymus Bosch. The combination of twelve Kristiti women (with long jet black trailing hair) with the large boulders and the river beyond, is a most happy one.

Sun Chin: Philip Jones, suffers from crude and unsteady lighting. Surely Sun Chin doesn't paint with full sunlight streaming across his picture and into one eye?

Tremonggong Japah and Parang greeting His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Sibuan Airport, February, 1959: Soon Lee Guan. In spite of the impressive title, this is disappointing, mainly because a figure (the Resident?) is behind and partly obscured by the Prince.

To sum up, there are many good and some excellent pictures in the calendar, but there is no uniting theme, and there are some surprising omissions. For instance, none of the pictures gives an indication that the inhabitants of Sarawak ever indulge in agriculture. Although the calendar is not supposed to be a geography book, it could reflect more closely the way of life of the people. It might be worth considering devoting, say, half the photographs in any year to one particular theme, for example agriculture, people, fish-lore, animals, birds, towns of Sarawak, trade development, and so on; this could be announced well before, so amateur photographers could concentrate on that subject. In this way I think the standard and interest would be raised still higher.

The Tooth

Kandy is one of the holiest places in a country which many, well qualified to judge, have believed to be one of the most beautiful on earth. It is also a place of considerable historical significance and of greater religious significance because of the presence there, in the great temple at the heart of Kandy, of a Tooth of the Buddha. The Prime Minister of Ceylon, in his exordium, at the opening of the United Nations Seminar, had reminded us that we were meeting "amidst the dust of Kings" but, immersed as we speedily became in matters of law and government, topics which, it may be freely conceded, however worthy, are neither glamorous nor picturesque, our background did not receive the attention which it merited and which, had we been less occupied, it would have received. It was, then, with surprise as well as pleasure that we listened to the announcement, towards the end of the Seminar that our deliberations would, on that particular day, be adjourned early since we were to be accorded the rare and signal honour of an Exposition of the Tooth.

The history of the Tooth is curious and, in its way, forms an odd commentary on the weaknesses of man and his difficulties in following the teachings and example of the Buddha. The events attending to the possession of the Tooth was, of course, tremendous and it came, in consequence, to have a political as well as a religious significance and this seems to be one of the reasons for its disturbed history.

The old histories frequently do not agree in detail and readers should bear this in mind. The Tooth is first mentioned in one of the earliest tales of the Mahabharata Buddhist Canon, one of three which describe the Buddha's last days on earth. The story tells a number of relics amongst which are four Teeth. One of these Teeth, supposedly the left eye-tooth, was after the death of the Buddha in 543 B.C. taken to the capital of Kalinga at Dashapura in the south of India—the modern Orissa. There it remained until the beginning of the fourth century A.D. when Dashapura was threatened with the ravages of war and the King of Kalinga gave instructions that his daughter should take the Tooth and flee to Ceylon. It arrived in Ceylon about A.D. 311, was received with the highest honours, placed in a crystal urn and enshrined in the first Bodhi Mooligara or Temple of the Tooth in the city of Anuradhapura.

Anuradhapura was one of the great cities of Asia. The Chinese traveller and Buddhist scholar, Fa Hien, who visited it at the beginning of the fifth century A.D., when it had already been capital of Lanka for about eight centuries gives an impressive description of it. Today its ruins cover an area of twenty-five square miles and it has by no means been fully excavated. Amongst the many interesting things which can be seen there are the remains of a temple where the Tooth was kept. There is not much of it but enough to give an indication of the quality of the original. Fa Hien mentions the Tooth and relates how it was taken out of its shrine every year, mounted on a richly-embroidered elephant and taken in procession, preceded by the Public Orator reciting the virtues of the Buddha, to a public shrine for Exposition to the homage of the people. This custom seems to be the origin of the processions which are still such a colourful feature of religious life in Ceylon.

Fa Hien also mentions the sacred Bo-tree at Anuradhapura which is also still to be seen and, like the Tooth, is an object of pilgrimage. This Bo-tree springs from a cutting of the Bo-tree under which it is reputed that the prince Siddhartha sat in meditation before reaching the state of Buddha. The cutting is said to have been brought from India in the fourth century B.C.

The removal of the Tooth to Amarapura was not the last time it was the prey of war. During the centuries after its arrival, Ceylon became, increasingly, the prey of attacks of Toads from south India and Amarapura was ravaged in the course of the campaigns. The Relic was spared, presumably because it is sacred to Hindus as well as Buddhists. The Tooth, however, had to be removed to safety on several occasions and eventually left Amarapura permanently and was retained at Polonnaruwa.

Polonnaruwa, sixty miles from Amarapura, is the second of Ceylon's ancient cities. The Mahavamsa the ancient Pali history of Buddhism in Ceylon compiled in the sixth century A.D., claims that they were three temples for the Tooth at Polonnaruwa. Two of these can be seen today and are very fine. The third, according to the Mahavamsa, was of a unique beauty and splendour but this cannot be placed with confidence in what now remains of the city.

Polonnaruwa proved to be no safer for the Tooth than Amarapura. Ceylon was continually being ravaged by invaders from south of India and elsewhere and the city was captured and re-captured. The invaders carried off the Tooth in the thirteenth century but it was retained on payment of a ransom. Eventually Polonnaruwa was abandoned as a capital and Kandy, near Colombo, succeeded it.

The Tooth, however, went to Kandy. This was not then a place of any great importance but it subsequently became the capital of a Kingdom, partly owing to the reverence of the Tooth there. Kandy was in the mountains and was not so easily ravaged as the rest of the country but the Tooth had not suffered the last of its vicissitudes. The worst was yet to come. In the sixteenth century, Saint Francis Xavier's mission arrived in the Tamil Kingdom of Jaffna, in the north of the island. This was held in subjection by the Portuguese from Goa but neither the barbarian manners of the Portuguese rulers and their soldiery nor the methods of conversion practised by the mission were viewed with favour by the Raja of Jaffna and he took to murdering the converts as an oblique way of indicating his disapproval of the mission and possibly also as a substitute for the massacre of the Portuguese which, desirable though he found it, would have been attended with dire consequences. He might as well have gratified his desire for it in spite of the fact that it was mainly the converts who were massacred, the dire consequences arrived. The Viceroy of Goa, Dom Constantine de Braganca, mounted a military expedition and, accompanied by the Bishop of Cochín, arrived in the island with the intention of punishing the contumacious Raja and ridding Jaffna, an intention which was fully carried out. One of the trophies of victory was a tooth, said to be the Kandy Tooth, sent for safe-keeping to Jaffna since Kandy itself was threatened by the Portuguese. The tooth was borne off to Goa in triumph and there the question of its disposal was referred by the Archbishop to the Inquisition. A bid to save the tooth was made by the King of Pôga. This was the celebrated Rājāmanṅga, one of Burma's greatest warriors, who contrived to be a devoted Buddhist without allowing his principles to interfere with periodic, systematic slaughter of the Siamese and other recalcitrant neighbours. Rājāmanṅga sent an embassy to Goa with an offer of four hundred thousand silver annas for the tooth. Their mission was fruitless. The Viceroy informed the emperor that the Inquisition would decide the future of the tooth and the Inquisition declined to receive the money. The outcome of the deliberations of the Inquisition on the future of the tooth was not unexpected: it was adjudged to be a pernicious idol and was condemned to destruction. The sentence was carried out in the presence of the Viceroy and his Court, the Archbishop, the humbled Burmese envoys and a vast concourse of the people. The tooth was ground to powder in a mortar, burnt and its ashes thrown into the sea.

At this stage, the story becomes a little complicated. Rājāmanṅga was seeking a Sinhalese bride. His search was successful and a Sinhalese princess arrived at the Court of Pôga. With her, in dowry, there arrived a tooth which was represented to be the Kandy Tooth, the Goa tooth. It was said, was a monkey's tooth given by the Raja of Jaffna to the Portuguese to stop their quest for the real Tooth. Rājāmanṅga was no fool and, having been proposed to pay a not inconsiderable sum for the Goa tooth, he might have been expected to scrutinise with some care the credentials of the new tooth, but the opportunity offered of enhancing his prestige by acquiring a Tooth was not one to be missed and, whether he believed in the authenticity of the new tooth or not, he received it with the highest honours and installed it in a pagoda.

In Ceylon, meanwhile, it was being authoritatively stated that the tooth destroyed at Goa had been miraculously re-constituted and had now returned through the air, of its own volition, to Ceylon. It was also being said, by the King of Kandy, that the Tooth had never left its Temple there and that whatever was captured at Jaffna, destroyed at Goa or sent to Burma, it was not the Kandy Tooth.

The truth is a matter of conjecture. All the parties concerned had a considerable interest in maintaining that their tooth was the real Tooth and it is impossible now to adjudicate on the possibilities. Nor is it important to do so. What is important is that the Tooth at Kandy is thought by millions of Buddhists to be genuine, whether original or miraculously re-constituted makes no matter, and, as such, an object of the deepest veneration. There are, or were, after all, no less than three fragments of the Holy Indian in this world, but it is only the cynic who would scoff.

This, then, was the astonishing relic which participants in the Namas gathered to see at four o'clock one afternoon last May. We removed our shoes in the ante-chamber and, led by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Union of Burma and his lady, reverently holding in their open palms an offering of *jeung-pang* blossoms, were conducted through a little door up a narrow wooden staircase and into a small wooden painted chamber barely large enough to admit us. After some delay the archway opened two locked wooden doors at one end of the chamber to reveal an inner chamber filled with an iron padlocked cage. Inside the cage was a golden *dagaba*, a bell-shaped object with a kind of stem, the like of which, in size ranging in the colonial, are to be seen all over Ceylon as Buddhist monuments. This one was about the height of a man.

A bunch of keys was produced, the padlocks removed and the cage dismantled. The *dagaba* was lifted up to reveal another archway and this in turn lifted to reveal another and so on until seven concentric *dagabas* had been removed. Each *dagaba* was draped with ropes of gold and precious gems, rich brocades and other offerings of the pious through the ages. These were piled in consecrating heaps on large trays as each covering was removed until the chamber began to resemble Aladdin's Cave. This all took some time and the *jeung-pang* wafted air in the little chamber became stifling and perspiration bathed those present but, in the interest of the moment, this was scarcely noticed. A gold grey-studded case reposing on a lotus flower of pure gold was the final container and when this was opened the Tooth was revealed. It was reverently placed on a special stand which was, in turn, placed on a golden cushion and covered by a glass bell. It was the colour of very old ivory. Its size was much greater than one would have imagined the human tooth could be but since one of the characteristics of a Buddha is his superhuman height this was to be expected.

The Buddhist participants paid homage to the relic, kneeling and bowing low and the priests touched them lightly on the head with the cushion. The non-Buddhist

participants were graciously invited to go forward one by one and see the Tooth which they did with respect. A Hindu servant of one of the participants, who had been admitted, with Buddhist tolerance, at his anxious desire, prostrated himself in front of the relic. There was no fuss but it was very impressive.

In due course, the Seminar concluded and the participants went their various ways. I remained for a little longer in Croyton and happened to be back in Kandy on the night of Wesak, the most important of the Buddhist festivals. As darkness fell, one could see from the house on a hill above the town, where I was staying, coloured illuminations all over the town and its surrounding hills. The Temple of the Tooth was ablaze with lights which were reflected in the black mirror of the lake. The streets around the temple and the lake were crowded with people who had come in from all parts and little three-litre stalls were busy supplying food and drinks and sweetmeats. From the Temple came the insistent sound of drums and gongs and within its precincts elephants were being girded and splendids appeared and ready persons in exotic attire were preparing themselves. Attendants bearing large flaming, jerry torches wandered about, constituting light and an element of risk.

At length, when all was ready, the procession began to form out of the incense mass. Men with thirty-foot whips came first, cracking them and clearing the way. Then followed the drummers, bearing on abacosts a slow rhythm and a fast rattling one. Brightly-dressed Kandyan dancers with costumes followed, leaping and whirling, their faces solemn and fixed in concentration, apparently oblivious of the crowds and the perilous flaming torches. Then came a Kandyan nobleman, in a costume which displayed medieval Portuguese influence, and his suite. The line of a elephants appeared, preceded by agile and daring tumblers. The first elephant, aligant, and in gorgeous regalia, bore on his back an illuminated replica of the Tooth. The illumination was supplied by a generator, being wheeled along at the very end of the procession and connected with the leading elephant, via a large number of other elephants, by trailing cables hitched on, here and there, to the other elephants and with lighted bulbs dangling at regular intervals. One personage that the electricity regulations were suspended for the occasion. Whether they were or not, the procession had scarcely begun when a cable parted, the illuminations of the procession, save for the tumbler, went out and were replaced by crackling blue and white flashes. One or two elephants began to look alarmed and were evidently contemplating swerving slightly to safety. But order was rapidly restored. An attendant appeared with insulating tape, the lights came on and the procession proceeded.

The mechanical arrangements may have been imperfect but the devotion of the people was unshakable. As the procession passed by, the people joined their hands and bowed in homage, displaying the simple piety which had preserved the Tooth for over two thousand years and created the great temples, frescoes and sculptures which adorn their country and stand as monuments to their civilization and the faith of man.

PETER MOOREY

Landis

The August 31st Edition of the *Gazette* contained, under reports from Administrative Officers, two references to the Marine Department; the first being a remark about the lander season and the other a reference to publicity with regard to shipping tonnage.

With your indulgence I would submit comments on both items.

First, the reference by Mr. Uptharpt that the Marine Department considers the lander season ends on 31st March. I am uncertain whether he implies that because of heavy rains in April, May and June that the department is moving in holding this official opinion but, as there is a lot of loose talk bandied around about the lander I think it is not out of place for me to try to put forward a clearer picture of Sarawak's weather in your most interesting journal.

It is not unusual to hear statements, even in the middle of July or at any time during our "dry" spell if there has been unusual weather, such as, "This is typical dender weather" or, "The lander has set in early this year."

Such statements are farcical.

The lander or north-east monsoon has been officially published as starting on 1st October and ending on 31st March each year and one purpose of this is a seasonal limitation of the number of passengers carried in local vessels. This monsoon is caused by the domination of the whole South-East Asia pressure system by intense anti-cyclonic conditions prevailing over north and central China which result in fresh north-easterly winds blowing right down the South China Sea. These winds reach us anything from mid-October to mid-November and they die off about mid-March.

On reaching the Sarawak coast the direction is more westerly than north-easterly and during passage over the warm sea, moisture is absorbed with the result that these winds bring abundant rainfall besides rough seas and heavy squalls when blowing hard. These "thirer" may last from seven to ten days followed by a period of relative calm alternating throughout the season.

Rainfall figures are, according to the *Administrative Atlas*, generally heaviest from October to January but there are large differences from year to year and the annual average and seasonal distribution of rainfall vary greatly from place to place, being much influenced by the orientation of the coastline and the distribution of hills and mountains. But there are also periods of very heavy rain on the north-west coast of Borneo during the transitional periods between the monsoons which include April/May and sometimes even up to June, and October, and in many places these are the wettest times. This would tally with Mr. Uptharpt's observations.

The other monsoon involved is, of course, the south-west monsoon which is caused by the anti-cyclonic condition over the south Indian Ocean causing a pressure gradient to build up, and when this is established it moves north-easterly. This monsoon does not affect Sarawak to the extent that it affects western Sumatra and north-west Malaya as we lie in the lee of these countries. We do, however, experience during June to October the passage of well-defined squalls often of the "sack" or "line" type, accompanied by severe thunderstorms and heavy rain. The coastline from Bintulu northwards is more exposed to this monsoon than the south-western coast of Sarawak as it starts to lose the sheltering effect mentioned above.

When not affected by monsoon weather, or peculiarities in the transitional period, coastal weather is of the tropical land and sea breeze type. This is the general picture from June to October and also during the settled periods of the north-east monsoon or in areas sheltered from its effects. These breezes are caused by the different degrees of heating and cooling experienced by the adjacent land and sea under the sky at night. Small sailing vessels engaged in offshore fishing depend to a large extent on such breezes to take them out to sea in early morning and return them to shore in the afternoon.

Sarawak's weather can be described as tropical and influenced by monsoon conditions. Tropical weather has many peculiarities and uncertainties and it is not so easily predicted as that of the temperate areas.

The other point I would like to mention is Mr. Lloyd Thomas's interest in guiding Tanjung Mani's position as the largest (dry) cargo handling port in Sarawak. As the originator of some of the publicity regarding Sejingkat's coming into favour as an export point I still hold this to be justified as it is an entirely new field of operation which deserves a boost.

Tanjung Mani has been a shipping point for timber of some importance since 1931 and I am sure that people in Sarawak and elsewhere are more than aware of this by now.

The publicity given to the first large vessel to come to Sejingkat, M.V. *Kadai*, has caused great interest and has led to the arrival of at least half a dozen other similar ships and the export to date of over 11,000 tons of round timber, mainly to Japan.

There is only 17 feet of water on the bar at Tanjung Pa, considerably less than in the new channel at Kuala Rejong, and the anchorage is very much smaller than that at Tanjung Mani, so please, Mr. Lloyd Thomas, do not try to detract from our small achievement which has taken a fair number of years to attain.

If the present trend in the timber market remains steady I predict a good season for Sejingkat from March to November next year and hope that more timber will also be shipped as well as round.

However, readers will note the dates again, as it is our old friend the lumber from November to March whose slowest seas and swell will prevent the log rafts from being banded round on their coastal tow from Sebatan and such places to Sejingkat and which will help retain Tanjung Mani's position as the premier sale, sheltered and seaworthy anchorage for the timber export trade.

J. R. BLAIR.

Bishop Trapp's Visit to Betong

Bishop Trapp's visit was, not only to Betong but to all the people of Sarawak, an occasion of great symbolic significance as a manifestation of racial harmony and unity, and a sign of world-wide brotherhood and fellowship in Christianity. Betong Church, like many other S.P.C. ones, was no exception; that day she received the Lord Bishop Trapp and his wife with impressive enthusiasm.

The ecclesiastical garden party was held in the Basil Temenggong classroom and on the padang; it was attended by many people, as well as Christians from up and downriver and nearby. As one was one of spectators standing on the high embankment of the Benedict Boarding House ground one could see the stream of people coming, some on bicycles and some on foot from the bazaar direction proceeding towards the padang on which the garden party was to be held. It was indeed a brilliant spectacle; the weather was sunny and bright all afternoon. The front premises of the Basil Temenggong building was a favourite spot for spectators; on the embankment nearby we could see many people adjusting their position to their height.

The various races with their uniforms arranged themselves in columns on the padang. The units of the Girl Guides, Dayak with Dayak costumes, Chinese with their costumes, Malays with their costumes and in the rear column was an Indian girl with her costume. Such a splendid array was pleasing to the eye.

His Lordship, Bishop Trapp, robed in white apparel and dark red belt, accompanied by his wife, was no-doubt equal to the occasion. Sometimes one wondered how he felt in the heat of the tropical sun, "occured" in his long flowing robes. At once as the blessing was

ended he delivered a short speech and Fr. Alfred Chabu was his interpreter. Cheers were then given after which Mr. Tinsley, as the representative of the people, delivered a brief speech.

Presentations were given to the Bishop and his wife by Mrs. Chabu and Mr. Impang. The badges were then given to the Guides. There followed Dayak dancing and soon afterwards the Lord Bishop planted a tree and his wife named the tree that had been made by the Boys' Club.

To the spectators it was indeed an unforgettable and impressive occasion.

ABRAHAM B. GUNAI

The Sarawak Government Railway

By ARTHUR MCK-THOMAS

The writer was hoping to produce an article of greater length on this subject, but was handicapped by an almost total absence of any information either in print or in people's memory. The following, therefore, must be regarded as a series of notes to place on record a few facts before all traces and memories of the old railway finally pass into oblivion.

The system was unique inasmuch that it must have been the shortest State-owned railway, either planned or in existence in the world. It ran for precisely ten miles from the Terminus opposite the Manager to what is now Mile 10 on the Serian Road.

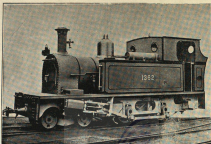
Unfortunately, no record exists of when it was originally planned. It must have been around 1905/1907. There is an old story told about the effect that His Highness the Second Rajah much favoured the construction of a railway and while he was in England during this period he decided to solicit the views and assistance of the Directors of the old Great Western Railway. A meeting took place and there was much deliberation on the subject of suitable locomotives, rolling stock, etc., until the Chief Engineer asked His Highness to give him some idea of how far the line was to run. On being told that it would extend for ten miles only, the Chief Engineer is purported to have coughed politely and suggested that more reliable information might be obtained from Gunagun!

Oldtimers suggest that it was the intention to build the line all the way through to 24th Mile, but there is nothing to support this except the straight stretch of road beyond 18th mile, which to this day has the appearance of a railway and not a road embankment.

Work on the track laying appears to have commenced in 1911 after a track had been cut and levelled. This was of narrow gauge. In 1912 orders were placed on Messrs. Peckett & Co. Ltd. of Bristol, England, for three locomotives, one 3-4-0 tank engine and two large 4-4-0 tank engines which were named "Jenn", "Wain" and "Betong" respectively. There is a suggestion that a lighter locomotive was employed a little earlier, but there is no trace of this whatever.

The "Jenn" must be assumed to have appeared first on the scene and it is interesting to record that she was incorrectly ordered for 3'6" gauge and the manufacturers were subsequently obliged to ship the requisite parts for her to be modified to narrow gauge in Sarawak. No doubt, someone got a single ticket home as a result of this mishap! All three locos were in position together with both passenger and goods rolling stock in 1913, and operations commenced in August of that year.

No one can recall the actual date of the opening but there is certainly a very strange story attached to the event, which may be truth or legend. The line was



Sarawak Government Railway Locomotive "Bela"

formally declared open and an eight-coach train filled with all the dignitaries departed from Kuching for the 5th mile. On passing over the level crossing at Green Road, the engine is supposed to have struck and killed a child. The driver and fireman bent in post-haste and are supposed to have left Sarawak altogether, returning some ten years later.

It was found necessary to provide another train crew and the journey was resumed with the engine blowing her whistle all the way.

What is odd about the opening and the event mentioned above is that the *Sarawak Gazette* makes no mention of it at all. Nor does it for that matter make any reference to the railway throughout its life, except for a few very cursory references to train departures, etc. Maybe the editor of that esteemed journal had a "thing" about railways. A pity, as today there would be so much of interest to look back on.

At this stage it must be recorded that the passenger rolling stock was of the four-wheeler variety, painted green and constructed of wood on steel frames. Goods vehicles were all steel four-wheelers, painted black with the legend S.G.R. on their sides.

The locomotives were very pretty indeed. They were also painted green and fitted with copper-rim chimneys and polished brasswork as the illustration shows.

The route was well served with stations and these were named as follows:—

Kuching Central, Green Road, Batu Tiga, Batu Lima, Batu Tajoh, and Batu Spohok. Fares were most modest by present-day standards being as little as 3 cents between stations to 20 cents all the way from Kuching to Batu Spohok.

There is nothing on record highlighting any activity until the early 'thirties. Schedules were maintained, five trains up a day and five down. There was even a milk train which loaded for at Kuching in the morning and returned in the afternoon with fresh milk. At one stage an evening service was introduced, and a notice appeared in the *Gazette* warning pedestrians to keep clear of the tracks at night, owing to the danger of trains.

The death knell of the Railway was struck on the completion of the road to 7th mile. As soon as this came into being a whole host of rickshackles began put in an appearance. For the most part these were built up on old Ford touring car chassis. Suffice it to say, they managed to dash the already few fares and the public withdrew their custom from the Railway.

From the beginning the system ran at a loss due to its short distance and the lack of freight offering. From the first full working year in 1906 until its closure as a fully fledged service in January 1931, the railway suffered a total loss of \$1,063,756. For those interested in figures this was made up as follows:—

Capital expenditure	\$ 613,971.23
Operating expenditure	706,380.88
Loss on working	244,239.96
Less receipts	594,482.42
Total loss	\$1,063,756.65

A very restricted service was maintained during 1931 and 1932 and in 1933 final closure came suddenly. In January of that year the Director of Public Works (also the General Manager of the Railway) wrote to the Sarawak Government Offices in London asking them to consult Pockeths with a view to modifying the locom for oil firing. Hitherto they had consumed coal from the Isahong Colliery, which was closed in 1931.

Before Pockeths had time to reply, the decision was taken in February to close the railway to all traffic.

On 9th February, 1933, the Director of Public Works put forward a proposal to the Government Secretary to restrict bus traffic on the main road in order to give the railway a last chance. His idea was to restrict buses to certain areas only and to halve the passenger fares on the Railway, thus driving the buses off the road. After the disappearance of the buses it was intended to reinstate the normal rail fares.

For the benefit of posterity it is worthwhile quoting the Government Secretary's reply in full:—

"With reference to your memorandum No. 18 in P.O.D. 127,1 dated 9th February, 1933, although the



Railway Staff posing in front of the Locomotive "Bintang" New Year's Eve, 1933.
(Note the Lian-Carhay Cinema in the background)

running costs of the Railway have now been reduced to a figure which would enable the Railway to show a profit if the receipts were equal to those in 1932 or 1938. In 1933, the Railway had not to face the competition of the road and in 1938, the trade depression began too late in the year to affect the year's receipts to any great extent. The prospects of receipts amounting to an annual figure of £20,000 in future are remote unless a monopoly is conferred on the line. Furthermore, if there should be a considerable revival in trade, it would be inevitable that the running costs of the Railway would rise, and I question whether it would be possible to run the Railway with the present staff if the passenger traffic greatly increased.

Since the competing road has been made and motor buses have been allowed to ply on it, to limit their operations now in order to create a monopoly for the Railway would be impossible, and if motor buses were driven off the road by cut-throat competition the effect would be purely temporary and as soon as normal railway rates were charged the buses would return. The Railway is short (and there is no possibility of its extension) so that the conclusion is inevitable that as a commercial basis it could never pay, and His Highness the Rajah has therefore decided that it should be completely closed.

Adequate notice should be given to the public of the date of the cessation of the train service and I suggest that the 31st March, 1933, would be a suitable date.

This decision will mean that thereafter—

(a) nothing further should be spent on the maintenance of the permanent way;

(b) all rolling stock, etc. should be stored and no staff retained to upkeep it, but the locomotives should be given a periodical overhaul by the F.W.D.;

(c) if tenants can be found station buildings at places other than Kuching itself should be leased to the public;

(d) the track of the siding from the stone quarry at the 7th mile to the station should be converted into a road. You informed me that this would cost about £4,000.

(e) the Railway staff should be retrenched."

Thus on 11th February, 1933, a notice was circulated to all departments and commercial firms to the effect that the railway service would terminate on 28th February, 1933.

On 3rd May, 1933, two Chinese gentlemen, Messrs. Lam Cheong Hing and C. F. Lam put a proposition to the Government Secretary suggesting that under private enterprise it might well be possible to make the line pay. They intimated that they would be prepared to finance the venture provided Government undertook to maintain the locomotives, rolling stock and permanent way. The Government Secretary met these gentlemen and discussed their proposal on 6th May, 1933, but there is nothing on record to tell us what the result of this meeting was.

From its final closure as a public service in 1933, until the Japanese occupation, the railway was used on and off by the transportation of stores from the 7th mile quarries. In 1940, the three locomotives required a major overhaul and it was suggested that a diesel power unit might be fitted to the chassis of the old "Iron", but this proved impracticable. Instead, a new American "Brookville" 4-ton locomotive was ordered from the Barmco Company in November, 1941. Needless to say, this machine never arrived in Sarawak.

During the occupation the line continued to be used for transporting stores as well as for the carriage of passengers and prisoners of war compelled to work in the quarries.

After the war the three steam locomotives were found to be in such poor condition that they were sold for scrap. Nothing remains of them except the number plate of the "Iron", which is now in the Sarawak Museum, together with the very few other relics which still survive.

A small Ruston diesel loco was purchased in 1947, and this hauled stone and aggregate for the construction of the new airfield. This may still be seen in front of what was the old engine shed in Mosque Road.

There is very little else of substance left today. Kuching station is still there and the legend N.G.R. may be seen above what was the entrance hall. There are a few goods wagons almost entirely hidden by grass behind the filling station in Mosque Road. Most



A Photograph of the Railway Staff taken on New Year's Eve, 1938. The Engine Shed is in the background with a loco inside

of the permanent way has been removed and the other stations demolished long ago. The track, of course, remains and one is apt to wonder why this is not converted into a motor road. It would make the drive to the airport a pleasure instead of the hazardous affair it is at the moment. Had the line been maintained in reasonable order, it is interesting to speculate whether it would to-day be an economical proposition to operate the system using two modern diesel rail cars. The writer thinks it would in view of the large number of people arriving, departing and just looking at the airport. What fun it would be whistling through Green Road, Batu Tiga, Batu Lima and all stations South!

A PASSENGER SCHEDULE INTRODUCED IN 1924.

APPENDIX I S. G. R.

The New Rates are as follows:

Kuching to Green Road	— 5 cents
Kuching to Batu Tiga	— 7 cents
Kuching to Batu Lima	— 10 cents
Kuching to Batu Tajoh	— 13 cents
Kuching to Batu Spohoh	— 20 cents
Green Road to Kuching	— 5 cents
Green Road to Batu Tiga	— 5 cents
Batu Tiga to Kuching	— 7 cents
Batu Tiga to Green Road	— 5 cents
Batu Tiga to Batu Tajoh	— 7 cents
Batu Tiga to Batu Spohoh	— 10 cents
Batu Lima to Kuching	— 10 cents
Batu Lima to Green Road	— 7 cents
Batu Lima to Batu Tiga	— 5 cents
Batu Lima to Tajoh	— 5 cents
Batu Lima to Batu Spohoh	— 10 cents
Batu Tajoh to Kuching	— 13 cents
Batu Tajoh to Green Road	— 10 cents
Batu Tajoh to Batu Tiga	— 7 cents
Batu Tajoh to Batu Lima	— 5 cents
Batu Tajoh to Batu Spohoh	— 7 cents
Batu Spohoh to Kuching	— 20 cents

Batu Spohoh to Green Road	— 17 cents
Batu Spohoh to Batu Tiga	— 13 cents
Batu Spohoh to Batu Lima	— 10 cents
Batu Spohoh to Batu Tajoh	— 7 cents

Dynamite, Arnick, Rubber, Pepper, Tuba, Gambier, Pine-apples, Rice, Beans, Coconuts, Durians, Keromeng Oil, Belian Oil, Laps, Charcoal, Firewood, Atap Leaves and Sweet Potatoes.	— @ 14 cents per picul per mile
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Cattle	— @ 5 cents per head per mile
Poultry	— @ 3 cents per head
Cheese	— @ 4 cents per head any distance
Pigs and Cattle	— @ \$2.00 per wagon from VII & X mile to Kuching.
Pigs and Cattle	— @ \$2.50 per wagon from V mile to Kuching or X mile
Pigs and Cattle	— @ \$1.50 per wagon from III mile & Green Road to Kuching
Timber	— @ \$4.00 per wagon from X mile to Kuching or vice versa
Timber	— @ \$3.00 per wagon from V mile to Kuching or vice versa
Timber	— @ \$2.50 per wagon from Green Road to Kuching or vice versa

Joining Boxes	— @ 1 cent per box per mile
Tube and other Produce	— @ \$5.00 per wagon from VII or X mile to Kuching
Tube and other Produce	— @ \$1.25 per wagon from V mile to Kuching
Tube and other Produce	— @ \$1.50 per wagon from III mile or Green Road to Kuching
Minimum rate between Kuching and X, VII, V and III mile	— @ 1 cent
Minimum rate between Kuching and Green Road	— @ 2 cents
Bicycles any distance	— @ 10 cents
Dogs any distance	— @ 5 cents
Covered Goods Van X and VII to Kuching	— @ \$4.50
Covered Goods Van V to Kuching	— @ \$3.50
Covered Goods Van III and Green Road to Kuching	— @ \$2.50
Goods 12 x 6 feet Special T. Truck X to Kuching	— @ \$4.50
Goods 12 x 6 feet Special T. Truck VII to Kuching	— @ \$3.50
Goods 12 x 6 feet Special T. Truck V to Kuching	— @ \$4.50
Goods 12 x 6 feet Special T. Truck III and Green Road to Kuching	— @ \$2.50

By Order,

C. F. LOWE,
General Manager, S.G. R.

Curator's Postbox

RAILWAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM,
Box 55-D, High Falls, N.Y.,
August 17, 1958

Director of Museum,
Photograph Department, Kuching,
Sarawak, Oronota.

DEAR SIR:

We would be pleased to receive, for permanent public visual-education display, credited to the courtesy of your Museum as donor, photographs of and showing the various historical and more modern types of locomotive and trains in use upon your railways, with complete descriptive data covering the following information which we require to identify the subjects for those interested:

- Engine road numbers in each type, class and subclass series
- Engine wheel type
- Railway letter classification
- Names of builder
- Year built

together with one or more fullplate or 3" x 7" photographs of each road class and subclass, by each builder, in enable us to formulate and display an historically accurate and complete series, with the information as above. We reiterate, of course, all steam locomotives, and electric and diesel locomotives, railcars and all automotive units.

Thanking you for this co-operation, and anticipating your early shipment, together with an interesting variety of the used stamps of your country (and please have the postage sent by stamp, and not by meter cancellation), we remain

Faithfully yours,

DAVID GOODMAN

Excerpts from Reports of Administrative Officers for the First Half-year, 1959

Miri District

District Officer—J. F. Drake-Hookman

The outstanding event of the year was undoubtedly the visit of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on February 19th. Although in Miri for only 15 minutes His Royal Highness drove in state round Miri Town, attended a reception at the Miri Community Hall and watched a display of dancing by many races on the Gymkhana Club playing field. The largest crowd that Miri has ever seen observed the circumlocutory dance round the town, and more than 300 people from all parts of the Fourth and Fifth Divisions were present both at the Community Hall and before the dancing display. Many hours of detailed planning resulted in the whole programme going perfectly according to time.

Many elaborate arches of welcome were constructed and hundreds of buildings decorated. The electrical decorations in Kingsway and Brooke Roads, installed by Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited, were particularly fine. His Royal Highness' arduous day ended exactly at midnight, and fireworks were let off as he drove away from the field. The remainder of the night was celebrated in the traditional Sarawak manner by several hundred people of all races in the Gymkhana Club and will long be remembered.

Cases and Crises

There has been a considerable decrease in the total number of cases heard during the first half of this year compared with the first half of last year, the figures being 370 and 530 respectively.

A most unfortunate accident occurred in the Lutong refinery during June. A Sarawak Shell Company Limited employee was overcome by petroleum vapour while ascending the steps of fuel in a storage tank. Apparently, owing to a slight leak from a valve and to the fact that the air was very still on that evening, a layer of gas about four feet deep had concentrated above the roof of the tank. When the gauger bent down to take the measurements he was overcome by the fumes. His absence was noticed within a few minutes and a very heavy attempt was made by several other men to rescue him. During the course of this attempt another man was overcome by the gas but was pulled out in time by his friends.

Miri Urban District Council

The question of reconstitution of the Council in 1960 was discussed at length at a meeting in April. It was resolved "That the Council be reconstituted in its present form in 1960 and that consideration of the question of elections be deferred until then. In the meantime, in order to stimulate public interest and as a means of raising local feeling, a full account of the proceedings of this debate be made available to local community associations and similar bodies and the necessary steps instituted to set up machinery to deal with early elections".

The Resident then addressed all community associations inviting their views on this matter. Some meetings were subsequently convened but were poorly attended and no formal replies have yet been received. It is believed that most Chinese Associations will favour elections in the latter half of 1960. The Malai Malay Association considers that elections should not be held until completion of the reorganisation of the Council. This includes increase of staff, complete overhaul of finances and by-laws, and inclusion of the oil company's residential areas which would give increased Malay representation.

It is clear that there is still general apathy on this issue, but the Council is preparing a series of pamphlets explaining its functions and activities in order to stimulate interest and it is hoped to follow these up with a series of lectures.

After serious consideration the Council decided not to accept the Director of Public Works' proposals for technical assistance and will recruit its own Technical Assistant, probably from Hong Kong. A tender has been accepted for construction of the new Council offices but work will not commence until this office has been engaged. The Brighton Park has been cleared and levelled, but preparation of a permanent scheme also awaits arrival of the Technical Assistant. A survey is being made of likely areas for use as playing fields.

An initial survey into the possibility of providing water-borne sanitation in the town area has been carried out, as a result of which Government is being asked to seek the assistance of a W.H.O. consultant. A full-scale investigation of markets is being carried out with a view to reducing the present congestion.

The two new Chinese primary schools have been nearly completed. It has been decided also to build a new Malay primary school. There has been close association with the Board of the Auchi School with a view to full integration with the Council.

The temporary bus terminus has proved to be very satisfactory and will become permanent. Buses has commenced are now erecting small offices at the terminus. Some streets have been re-designed and parking regulations are in the course of publication.

The Library is becoming increasingly popular and 25,000 worth of Malay and Chinese books are on order. Very few requests for the use of the Community Hall have been received and it is intended to lay down carpet flooring on top of the existing concrete floor in order to make this Hall more suitable for dances.

Sibu Rural District Council

Two full meetings of this Council were held during the half year. Government's proposals for financial assistance to local authorities were carefully explained and very favourably received. Most Councillors agreed in principle with the new proposals and thought that there would be little difficulty in convincing their constituents that it would be advantageous to adopt them.

The licensing of dogs in business has been under consideration for some time and it was finally decided to pass the necessary by-laws, although very little extra revenue will accrue to the Council from this source.

The Upper Primary School opened in January with about twenty-five boarders in temporary borrowed accommodation. The Primary V Class has done very well indeed under a most energetic young teacher, who is especially keen on art and craft work. Vegetables and flowers have been planted and football is now being played regularly. It is hoped to build a permanent boarding house before the end of this year to accommodate about fifty children from the beginning of next year.

The Niah Primary School is also doing well and was visited by His Excellency the Governor in May. A permanent building for this school will also be erected this year.

Niah Affairs

The Internal Migration Officer has almost completed his survey of the Niah river. He writes as follows in regard to the River:—

"The pattern now emerges of a river where very large areas of Government land were handed out to individuals who set themselves up as *Tuas Rumbak* (Headman) and then collected *Isapap* (migrant tax). As soon as the latter became prosperous they broke away from their houses and set themselves up as *Tuas Rumbak* on land overlooked by earlier individuals and repeated the process of collecting *Isapap*. The damage caused by *Isapap* is due to the fact that they know they are not likely to be long in the area and they have no consideration for the land. They prefer to clear large areas of fairly recent *serau* (secondary growth) because it is easily and rapidly done, and to sow as large an area as possible so that they can pay a commission to the *Tuas Rumbak* and still retain enough paddy to recompense themselves for the cost of the journey. There are, therefore, many houses in this river whose farming areas consist mainly of *serau* less than ten years old and hence are not viable houses".

There is no doubt that there are in this river some *Tuas Rumbak* who are entirely supported by the *Isapap* they have imported from other parts of the country and do not plant any paddy themselves. There is the further complication of those houses which are situated in land which has been declared *Mixed Zone*. This is most frustrating for the Chinese who can only obtain titles to land by persuading an Iban to apply for site first and then transfer it to them.

Land held under title and by customary right in the Niah river is apportioned between the various races roughly as follows:—

	Chinese	Malay	Iban
		Persons	
Estimated total usable land (acres)	1,500	7,000	68,250
Number of doors	280	175	390
Acres per door	5	40	175

Recent extensions to the land classified as *Mixed Zone* has led to several requests from natives, especially Ekeberans, for the survey of communal reserves. Two areas at Bereng and Bungai are now being surveyed.

Sibu

With a Divisional Medical Officer now stationed in Sibu, and a Travelling Doctor based on Miti, the medical facilities provided by Government have somewhat improved, although services provided in Sibau, Niah and Seng are still far from satisfactory.

Travelling Dispensary No. 13 cannot cover the whole area regularly, in spite of the valiant efforts of the Hospital Assistant, and is also continuously hampered by lack of funds for travelling and by lack of essential supplies. The building of a proper dispensary in this area, which has a population of about 15,000, is long overdue and should be treated as a matter of priority.

A small boat shed and store has been built at Kuala Niah where one boat and engine is kept, so that the Hospital Assistant is not now dependent on a canoe to visit the Niah river.

Regular spraying is now being carried out by W.H.O. in the Sibau, Niah and Seng rivers, with excellent results.

Apiculture

There were several storms and some very blustery weather during June, and more rain fell during this month than during the first five months of the year. Fortunately there was little damage to crops, but considerable damage was done to roads and bridges.

The rice harvest was very good this year. Sibak is almost a surplus area, but the harvest of swamp padi was estimated to be five per cent better than last year. A few farms had so much padi that they could not even be bothered to harvest all of it.

Market prices have remained fairly stable for the last six months, and the average price of rubber has been higher than during the corresponding period last year. About 500 piculs of vegetables per month are sent to Bontol.

The Coconut Planting Scheme continues to interest people in Sibak and Niah. Thirty-seven applications have been approved covering 185 acres, of which 93 acres have been cleared and drained. A further forty applications covering 200 acres have been received.

The tobacco factory at Niah continues to make good progress and was visited by His Excellency the Governor in May. It is likely that this company will request a loan from Government to enlarge the business.

Arrangements are being made to restart the extraction of gums from the Niah Caves while the Curator of the Museum is waiting there. It is intended that individuals will be licensed monthly and will be allowed to work only in areas specified by the Curator.

Education

The Tanjong Lelaing Secondary School carried on with a skeleton staff for the first term as the Colombo Plan replacement teachers had not arrived. The grounds have been cleared but the access road was not completed by the end of June. One result of this was that the scavenging contractor could not operate at the school and no proper arrangements were made for the disposal of kitchen waste. This caused an outbreak of flies which at one stage reached serious proportions. The situation was eventually remedied, but the kitchen block drainage still appears to be unsatisfactory. This school is now due to be opened by the New Zealand High Commissioner at the end of September.

A contract was signed for construction of the new St. Columba's School and work proceeded rapidly. The school was due to be opened by the Bishop of Borneo on August 15th.

Licensing Authority

With the provision of a proper test track in the center of the town the bus companies have less cause to complain of loss of business. In fact they have been making more profit recently and the M.T.C. have purchased several new buses. They also seem to be making a greater effort to run in accordance with their schedules.

The licensing of rickshaws was discussed at length and it was decided that they did serve a useful purpose and should continue to be licensed provided that proper regulations were drawn up. They had up to the time of the discussions been remarkably accident-free. Within the next few months, however, there were three accidents, one of which was fatal, involving rickshaws.

Several taxis have been replaced recently, the most popular cars for this purpose being Holdens and Vauxhalls.

Trade

The initial signs are apparent of a movement of trade away from Kuala Belah and back to Miri, owing to the more difficult conditions now prevailing in Brunei, and there have been inquiries from certain people regarding the qualifications which may be required for residence in Sarawak at a later date.

Museums

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harrison spent several months in the Niah Caves and large quantities of interesting material were excavated. Discussions took place with a view to reorganizing the extraction of gums in such a way that the archaeological excavations would not

be endangered. It was finally decided to experiment with a system of licensing individuals on a monthly basis.

Social Welfare

The District Relief Committee was informed and advised the arrangements for issue of food parcels and assistance to the Chinese Pauper House. The Committee is now paying half the cost of running the Pauper House, which is estimated to be about 75 cents per person per day. The other half is paid by the Chinese Charitable Trusts Board. There are now thirty-nine inmates, and in spite of a recent addition to the building the house is again full. With some assistance from the Malay Charitable Trusts Board the Committee is also supporting several Mohammedan families by means of monthly food parcels.

It is most desirable that as soon as possible funds should be found to construct a proper home for the aged in Miri, to serve all cases in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions. An approach has already been made to the appropriate authority with a view to obtaining the services of the Franciscan Sisters to assist with the running and general supervision of the existing Pauper House.

General

His Excellency the Governor paid a visit to Niah on 23rd May and spent a night in the caves. His Excellency also visited the Niah Bazaar, the Chinese and District Council Schools, and a new tobacco factory.

His Excellency the Commissioner-General for South-East Asia, Sir Robert Scott, also paid a short visit to the Niah caves, arriving at Niah by helicopter. He was accompanied by the Acting Chief Secretary.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. F. D. Jakeway, visited Miri for two days, soon after his arrival in Sarawak. His visit coincided with the second day of the combined M.D.A.A.A. and S.S.O.L. Sports meeting. The Sports were very successful and concluded with a most interesting display by the S.S.O.L. fire-fighting team.

Considerable damage was done to roads by a fresh storm in June and two bridges were washed away. One wooden bridge in the town collapsed with a car on it, though fortunately no one was hurt.

BARUM DISTRICT

District Officer—M. M. McSparran

Cases

The volume of court work increased during the first half year, a total of eighty-eight cases being heard in the criminal courts. Amongst these were the first traffic cases ever to be heard in Marud.

Medical and Health

The Barum dispensary clinic was nearing completion at the end of June. The Barum District Council has provided \$2,000 and the remainder of the contract price, \$2,500, will be found by the people of the Bakong. The Old Doctor will live there and a room will be provided for the midwife for use as a clinic.

An R.A.F. Parachute Rescue Team with an R.A.F. doctor dropped into Barum on the 21st March to give medical aid to the wife of the headmaster of Pa Main school who was having a complicated pregnancy which might well have proved fatal. This operation has already been reported fully in the Sarawak Gazette. Mr. John Seal, Air Operations Officer, accompanied the party.

Chinese Affairs

Chinese New Year was well celebrated and enjoyed by all.

Community Development

The results of the first two-year course which ended in December, 1958 have, in so far as Community Development is concerned, been disappointing. The students who have so far returned to their homes have done little apart from between the fact that they have been unable to find employment with Government. This is not to say that the course has been a failure. Far from it. It has turned out some excellent material most of whom are very usefully employed and indeed some are assisting in the development of their communities although not in the way the course set out to show them (Schoolmasters and Agricultural teachers). It is the second course on which the true value of the scheme will be judged. It is most unlikely that any of these boys will be accepted for Government (they are only Primary VI standard) and they will have little option other than to return to their homes. It has been suggested that such students should be trained with a set of carpentry and metal-working tools to enable him to put into practice what he has learnt on the course. This would not cost much and would be an incentive to put into practice what has been taught.

Native Affairs

Orang Ulu

Raya Malang of Long Tarawan has been elected to replace the late Pengulu Tama Ulong at Pengulu for the Tanch and the Kenyah and Puma houses in the Apoh. His appointment took effect from the 1st May. He is the son of the late Pengulu Tama Tinggang Malang and brother of the late Native Officer, Tinggang Malang.

Uyong Aris has replaced the late Uak Lih as Tui Kampong of Long Atan in the Tinjar.

The wedding reception for the marriage of Afon Lamau, brother of the Temenggong to the daughter of Pengulu Apoh, Sungai Baka, Indonesia, was held at Long Jan in January. It was very much the social event of the season. An amap marquee was erected outside the house to accommodate the Ulu Barau which attended in force. Another fashionable wedding was that of Marina Maling, a wife to Belahit Taping, headmaster of the Local Authority School at Long Bang. The opportunity was also taken for a combined naming ceremony for many children and the celebrations lasted several days.

Efforts are to be made to ensure that new long-houses built in the Barau are structurally sound. Recently Pengulu Juk Ngau and several people with him in a room at Long Wat, suddenly found themselves sliding amongst the pigs when the floor collapsed beneath them. One woman was seriously hurt. The floor was supported by a beam only 2" x 3" and rotten at that. A wedding at Long Tutoh nearly ended in disaster when the weight of guests gathered round the bride and bridegroom on the verandah became too much for the slats which shot into the earth another three feet and the overcrowded firm roof crashed catastrophically. The bride and groom were rescued completely with chairs and the verandah was left sagging before anything more serious happened.

The Long Kipats of Long Tutoh, alarmed by indications that some of Rantau Likong and Rantau Arak intend to plant permanent crops on their land at Sungai Keli and Sungai Baka, have lately refused to permit these Borneo to farm this land again. It had been customary for these houses to borrow Long Kipat land for farming only. The Long Kipats have a large area and offered to share it with overland doers of Kipats who wish to move from Long Rantau, but the conditions under which they would occupy this land have yet to be agreed on.

Work has begun on the Temenggong's new house at Long Sen. It is well sited on high land inland of the old site. But it was difficult to haul the slabs up

from the river bank and British Malayan Petroleum Company very generously presented the Temenggong with a winch which has been most useful.

The Kelabit houses at Seritan, Kaba'an and Bava are now completely dry and no longer plant tobacco, having been influenced by Murut pastors. Like all Kelabits they are most hospitable yet there is something vaguely depressing about these three houses. Virtue has gone too far.

Large numbers of Kelabit men and women are now in the habit of leaving their homes for long periods and working at Marudi, Lusan and Lirihang. The reason is understandable enough, for, although the Kelabit country is one of the most productive in Sarawak, it is so difficult of access that its products cannot reach the towns in economical quantities. There is an increasing demand for cloth and luxury goods previously undreamt of. But it is all having a most unfortunate effect on the Kelabit way of life and it is to be hoped that an air service can be inaugurated which will then make it worth the Kelabit's while to stay at home and plant cash crops.

More

Refugees have increased recently from local Borneo for many farming land. Some are genuinely short of land and yet the flow of them to the Barau from other districts in search of farming land still continues. Latest arrivals were Tani Rantau Japong of the Lomau and three of his people who came here against the advice of the Senior Administrative Officer, English. They have not been given permission to remain and they will be prosecuted if they remain more than sixty days. Recommendations have been made that the sixty days permitted without a pass should be dispensed with and that any Borneo from another district arriving in the Barau should require a pass. This will require an amendment to the rules made under the Prohibited Areas Ordinance.

Borneo in the Barau are becoming far more co-operative and progressive. There is far more enthusiasm for schools than that shown in the other two Borneo areas; all are passing their education time, helping on the Barau rubber road and are showing interest in the rubber planting scheme. Borneo in the Puvag area lag far behind though they are closer to Marudi.

Roads and Surveys

Survey parties have been busy surveying the road reserved for the Marudi-Puvag and for the Belara-Bukit Blop Road. The Marudi-Puvag Road survey had been completed by the end of June.

Prolonged negotiations took place in April and May for the acquisition of land required by Sarawak Offshore Limited at Lubok Nibong and Bukit Englabong for access roads and also location. It would have been less complicated had there been more warning of the Company's intentions. Company heavy equipment was moving up the road from Lubok Nibong whilst negotiations were in progress for land at Englabong and owners asked their prices out of all proportion to the value of land in the locality. A price in terms of local land values was eventually agreed on, but far less than the price originally asked for. All owners will benefit by the road built through their gardens.

More residential lots in Kampong China, Marudi, were auctioned. The highest price reached was \$920 a lot. Substantial houses are now being built and industrial buildings are now under construction.

Three of the new showhouses have now been completed at Long Akah. Two are under construction. Access roads have been laid out and it is a vast improvement on the shambles of the old bazaar.

Apulohar

The Rubber Planting Scheme in the Ulu Barau suffered a setback when only 16,000 seeds germinated of the 120,000 clonal seeds flown in to Long Akah

from Malaya in February, 1959. It was apparently the end of the Malayan seed fall and a certain amount of failure was expected but not to this extent. 64,780 clumps were sent upriver to planters in May.

The Fenchow planters at Bukit Blop have achieved excellent results. 1,360 acres of rubber have now been planted.

The best smallholding in the district belongs to a Chinese at Long Lama. Elsewhere the scheme is progressing, but there are many more applicants than the staff can cope with.

Three groups from the Barum—the Biskong, Olo Barum and Olo Tinjat—attended courses No. 3, 4 and 5 at Samarahan. All were enthusiastic about the course on their return and it seems to have been well worthwhile.

The Coconut Planting Scheme has been well received in the downriver areas. Millions of Keapung Barum have applied for 184 acres of which 94 (4,500 palms) have been planted. Other applications total 49 acres.

Tanjong Tapak Agricultural Station is disappointing. Little seems to have been achieved there.

The Penan Islam of Karampong Belau are making encouraging progress on the Sengul Nanti wet padi scheme under the guidance of Junior Agricultural Assistant Beking. If progress is maintained (and there is every indication that it will be) it should serve as a pilot scheme for the Biskong which has some excellent potential wet padi land. Already padi is the main aspect of Belau.

Forestry

The Natural Resources Board has at last agreed to the creation of 500 acres from the Forest Reserve immediately behind Marudi Barum. This will be divided into lots and allocated to smallholders.

Pongshu Gao is in trouble with his sawmill. He has refused to pay a Forest Department bill of over \$1,000 for royalty on the grounds that he and his people have traditionally taken timber for domestic purposes without payment of royalty. The dispute, most of which is still lying in the jungle, is being used in the construction of the longhouse and school at Long Bana. The case has been to the District Court and an appeal is now pending.

Trade and Customs

The first shipment of cargo from Singapore arrived in Marudi about 11.15. *Freemantle* of the Nyala Steamship Company. The cargo had been transhipped from the *Karong* at Labuan and shipped direct to Marudi. She carried twenty tons and sailed from Marudi with twenty-five tons of rubber, *Sumat* and pepper. It was a trial shipment.

Posts and Telegraphs

A Posts and Telegraphs Telecommunication party under Mr. Homan spent two weeks in Marudi in April installing the electric radio and raising the V.H.F. mast. They also realigned the H.F. aerial which has improved reception considerably. Signals are now received strength five local and clear only occasionally interfered with by static. The speed and efficiency with which this party carried out their work was most impressive.

The opportunity was also taken to reorganise the layout of the Post Office which has made it more convenient for both staff and the public. It was also repainted.

Labour

Faction of Kayahs have continued to arrive in the Barum. Good workers and excellent citizens they have caused no trouble of any kind. A few of the younger men marry and apply for permission to remain in Sarawak but otherwise there have been no requests to settle.

The Halia Stone Quarry at Batu Gading has an embargo removed. Employees often have to wait several months before receiving their pay and a party, given

tired of waiting, are reported to have returned home without. Another group, also unpaid, reported to Government and action has been taken against the quarry owner.

Daily paid labour has been employed by Government recently in preference to contractors. The experiment in building quarters by direct labour was not altogether successful. Finishing was poor and it is doubtful if costs were any lower. Daily paid labour has been employed on Marudi Town Development and this has been more economical on road surfacing than on other projects. Considerable supervision is required, it has not been possible to recruit a number of sufficient calibre to ensure men work as hard as they should and Native Office (Senior Administrative Officers) have had to spend a lot of time on organising and checking work.

The news of Sarawak Offfields Limited operations at Bukit Engkabang attracted a spate of hopeful Bums from other districts in search of work. But they were soon disillusioned. The company relied chiefly on heavy equipment for road construction and site preparation and agreement had been made beforehand that the few labourers they required would be recruited locally. Very little building will be done. Company employees are to be housed in air-conditioned bungalows moved alongside the river bank.

Education

A significant landmark in Barum education was the opening of the Central Barum Upper Primary School at Long Lama in January. It has an enrolment of twenty-four, of whom thirteen are Kayahs, six Kelabit, four Kanakas and one Malay. The Headmaster, Sim Kim Lung, is a IIA Batu Lintang trained teacher and has settled down remarkably well upriver. A temporary boarding house was built near the Community Development Project site and classes held in the Development Project schoolroom from 7.30 to 1.00 daily. A capital grant has recently been approved for a dormitory and construction will begin shortly. The site has already been levelled. The Barum District Council is fortunate in that the Group Headmaster has been able to give this school a lot of attention. He reports that he has been most impressed by the high standard of intelligence of the children and amazed at their eagerness to learn. The school has recently been renamed "Bukit Saban School" after the old palace, near the site, planted by a former District Officer.

Higher primary facilities are adequate until the end of 1960.

It was hoped that Long San would take children from the Upper Barum, Bukit Saban School (on the mid-Barum) and the Good Shepherd School, Marudi, from the lower Barum, but the position is complicated by religious preferences which sometimes take children to a school much farther afield than they a heretic world. If the present high standard is maintained in the Kelabit schools there will soon be a cry for an upper primary school in the Kelabit area. It would be cheaper in the long run. Kelabit students downriver have to be supported by scholarship grants. In the Kelabit country they could support themselves.

Work has continued on the rebuilding and improvement of Local Authority schools. At Long Bana the framework of the new school has been completed, concrete floor laid and roofing completed. An extension has been made to Sengul Malina School and a concrete house laid. Lubok Bendera School has been extended and completed. A new school has been built at Pa Main. Improvements have been made to Long Fani School. Lubok Nibana School has been repaired and minor repairs carried out. A new school building was completed in January at Long Boming.

Capital grants totalling \$33,265 have been approved for Local Authority schools in 1959.

The Barum District Council is being inundated with applications to open new schools. At its last meeting applications were considered for new schools at Long

Indian, Pa Pank and Long Tumb. Several others including Long Liam, Peking and Pa Dali were tabled for further consideration.

Long Redian was approved because no further teachers are involved. One will be withdrawn from Long Atip and the Long Redian children who go to school there will be spared the journey downriver. A decision on the remaining schools was deferred until September, but it is most unlikely that many (if any) will be approved. No trained teachers are available and it is unlikely that the position will improve much next year. Only two trained teachers are due to return to the Barum next year.

The experiment in posting a Malay Rata Lintang trained teacher to an old school has all but failed. The teacher complains he is desperately unhappy there and has applied for a transfer to a Malay school. There are no vacancies available downriver and if Malays from the Barum are to continue to go for Rata Lintang training they must be prepared to accept a posting somewhere in the district.

The Barum District Council has now collected \$317 from the \$1.00 per day deducted from Kelabit porters' wages to meet the deficit caused by non-payment of Kelabit school fees. The amount due in Kelabit school fees for 1959 is over \$2,000 and if this is to be realised there will have to be a lot more travelling to the Kelabit country in the second half year. The WHO spraying visit in the second half year will help.

A Local Authority Headmaster who converted school fees to the tune of some \$900 to pay for his wedding celebrations was required to pay this sum back which is being done. He has also been demoted.

The Brunel Shell Petroleum Company have very generously presented three longhouse libraries to the Barum which have been placed in Long San, Long Heng and Long Atip. Each library consists of approximately 200 well-bound and illustrated books of general interest to readers of Primary IV and above. They are intended for those who have left school and who would otherwise have little to read, but will also be of considerable interest and value to children in these houses still at school. Well-designed bookcases have been supplied with the libraries.

Only two teachers (Grade IIIA) are due to return to the Barum from Beta Lintang next year, four are due in 1960. No Barum Grade IIA teachers are likely to graduate before 1965 and it will be many years before there are sufficient to meet the demand. The Barum schools will have to be staffed chiefly by IIIA and IIIB teachers for a long time to come. Last year only four were accepted for IIIA training and this year it appears unlikely that more than seven or eight will be accepted. The Education Department agreed last year to investigate the possibilities of arranging an intensive course for suitable candidates to fit them for the Grade IIA course, but who lacking the necessary qualifications would not otherwise be eligible. Nothing more has been heard of this proposal, but it is to be hoped that further consideration can be given to it.

Public Works Department

Work has continued on Marudi Town Development. Surfacing of the road from Marudi Bazar to the airstrip has been completed and work began on surfacing the Kampong China Road, all by direct labour, chiefly Kelabits.

The residential and industrial area behind Marudi Bazar is low lying and considerably filling and drainage work has been necessary on the roads. Only one Public Works Department truck has been available and it has often been required for other work. Progress has been slow. Hire rates of local trucks are prohibitively high and have not been used. A goadway road has been laid as far as the new workhouse lots. It was proposed to use foils, but this proved too expensive and rubber from lime breeding for the side has been

used instead. Filling will be placed on top and it is hoped that the peat base will have consolidated by the time the rubber gets.

The Marudi airstrip buildings were completed in April and wiring installed. They are functional and attractive and entered only by two tall pit barriers sited directly behind.

For the first time in many years—probably since the war—sufficient funds have been allocated for maintenance of quarters. Work is being carried out by direct labour.

Work has not yet begun on the Marudi dispensary extension or the Public Works Department stores and workshops. The dispensary is often seriously overcrowded and the extension is urgently required.

Work has been slow starting on the Marudi water supply. Water main laying began at the end of June. Pipes have arrived and an expert has been to look at the Barum.

The proposed water supply rates have been agreed to by all potential consumers. Rates at present provide for a \$7.50 per month minimum charge for 4,000 gallons and it has been recommended that a lower minimum charge should be included for bachelor and small family households.

Tenders have been accepted for construction of the Kulu Kibang at Long Akah and Lio Mata. Work is due to begin shortly.

Airstrip

The Marudi airstrip and terminal building have now been completed. The strip itself is gravelled. It remained hard throughout the heavy rain in May. There was no flooding and no erosion of any consequence. Fertiliser has been applied and the grass is growing extremely well. A practice flight was made on the 18th April by a Twin Pioneer after which the strip was passed as operational.

There is still no news of an air service.

Minor Roads

Work began in May on the Poyat end of the Marudi-Poyat Road. The first stretch of four miles is being built under contract, about \$4,900 a mile including culverts and bridges. Pouchou gardeners are making a valuable contribution by permitting their rubber to be felled without compensation. Donkeys require compensation, but are giving voluntary labour on a stretch of the road in their area. When this has been completed 8½ miles will remain to be built to link with Marudi-Lintang Road.

A vine footbridge, 45 yards long, was built in March over the Sungai Tadas, previously a difficult and when in flood dangerous obstacle on the first day's walk from Lio Mata to the Kelabit country. Four lengths of ½ mile were used. Natives from Pa Pank and Pa Luan gave free labour. This was so successful that arrangements were made to build a second bridge in the Kelabit country at Pa Labuan in June. Further bridges will be built across other difficult rivers in the Kelabit country.

The Belera-Bukit River (Sungai Karag) Road was also started in May. Ferry Ben house in the Bakong has agreed to work for two days a year without pay until the road is completed. All volunteers receive a ration allowance of \$2 a day. This road will link houses in the Bakong which at present have very poor river access.

Shortly after work began on the first day an axe handle snapped and the head narrowly missed its owner's ear. Another man placed a log with his pawing. Work stopped and it was decided that the path should be appraised before there were any further troubles. Mishap were hung up at the beginning of the road, a pig killed and head buried in the centre of the carriage-way. I only hope that the author will not be too

champed when he discovered that one pig, several chickens, and two bottles of arrack have been charged to the Minor Roads Vote.

It is proposed that the Belaga-Babit Brop Road should eventually be linked to Marudi. The Marudi-Ponot Road will be extended to the Tuiok and thence on to the Apoh and Ulu Puteh and Akah and eventually on to the Kelabit highlands. Preliminary traces of suitable routes will shortly be made.

The new path from Ranau to the Kelabit country cutting out the more difficult track via Lapa Wai has proved a great success. The route was run by Pumas who were paid one shotgun and a box of cartridges. Pumas are also to be used in making preliminary surveys of the side minor roads. They are shortly to cut a track from Long San to the Tanja.

General

The most memorable event of the half year was the visit to Miri of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. About 200 from the Barum went down to Miri for the celebrations. Twelve were presented in the Community Hall and seventy-nine on the pool. The Tawongkong sang to His Royal Highness prior to the dancing on the pool assisted by a chorus of leading Barum chiefs and presented him with a tankard of beer. Gifts were then presented—a magnificent Burman carved fruit bowl and a set of carved Burman bottle tops for the Duke, a dancing outfit, *Sungay Jayung* and *Pusing Rang* for Prince Charles and a head bracelet for Princess Anne. Dancing displays were then given by Koryaks, Kayans and Kelabits, two men and two girls of each race. The girls then danced a special dancing in front of His Royal Highness to end the display. Then the party began. The library around the Gymkhana Club in front armed with four jars of beer. The G.C.M. retailed with honey and beer. I doubt if the G.C.M. has ever seen gifts such a party.

The visit will never be forgotten by those who participated and will long be talked about on longhouse verandahs. His Royal Highness impressed all by his charm and friendly approach. It was a relatively expensive operation in so far as the Barum was concerned, but well worth it. "Jok" as the Duke is known in the Barum now means very much more than just a picture on the wall.

His Excellency the Governor flew into Baure by Twin Pioneer on the 14th June. This was the second attempt His Excellency had made to fly into Baure and the Kelabits were delighted to see him. Night-hawking keepings arrived in force and some people travelled for over a week to be there. The buffaloes were killed and served in three batches on the ranches. Immediately following His Excellency's arrival traditional games were demonstrated. His Excellency then took a walk round the ranchland surrounding Baure and saw something of its agricultural potential: large cabbages with excellent hearts, carrots, radishes, potatoes and other vegetables normally grown in a temperate climate. In the afternoon His Excellency took a long walk and was able to see more of the area and a possible site for a new airstrip. That evening replying to a request made by Pengulu Lunai on behalf of the Kelabit, His Excellency said the possibility of arranging for an air service would be investigated.

On the 15th His Excellency and party flew to Long Akah where he spent the day. That night was spent at the Tawongkong's new house at Long San where a large gathering attended a most enjoyable party. The next day His Excellency travelled downriver to Long Luma where Kayans, Koryaks and Chinese had arranged a lunch party in the Kaba. The night was spent at Long Bang. The 17th was spent at Marudi. A party was held in the Barum Recreation Club that evening and later His Excellency visited the Kiching. Accompanying His Excellency on the trip to Baure was the Director of Agriculture, Mr. Hales of British

Malayan Petroleum Company, the Private Secretary and Captains Robertson and Finch of Bombo Airways. The Hon'ble the Resident, Fourth Division, and the Divisional Medical Officer joined the party at Long Luma. This was His Excellency's last visit to the Barum and all his many friends in the river were sad that it should be so.

A group of British Malayan officials including Messrs. Carter, Rule, Pope, Knight and Colman Smith spent four days in the Barum in early April visiting Marudi, Long Luma, Long Lapor and Long Bang. Mr. Knight who is chief photographer for the Shell Group took a considerable number of photographs depicting life in the Barum. Advantage was taken of the visit to Long Bang to present one of the libraries mentioned earlier in this report.

A second visit by a Shell party was made in a chartered Twin Pioneer to Long Akah (Long San) and Marudi on the 11th May. They had hoped to visit Baure, but the strip was soft after heavy rain and it was impossible to land.

DISTRICT DISTRICT

District Officer—R. J. Pale-Evans

Medical and Health

The Tatum Travelling Dispensary was destroyed by fire in January and the Hospital Assistant was badly burned on the back. Thereafter no regular visits were paid to the air up to the end of the half year.

The Travelling Medical Officer visited the District and Tatum rivers twice.

In April a W.H.O. anti-malaria spraying team conducted operations throughout the district. Everyone remarked that the insecticide did not seem nearly as effective this time. District town area was sprayed for the first time.

The British Travelling Dispensary also stopped temporarily while the Senior Hospital Assistant was on long leave but advantage was taken to repair the boat.

There was an outbreak of measles at Kuala Serapi but otherwise nothing remarkable.

Native Affairs

San Puanak

Requests to *sanak* within the district continued to rise in but many of them were not very serious ones. There is a general feeling amongst Puanaks that the *Sanak* would be a good river to move into but few people have ever inspected the land there, which is a Forest Reserve.

Ramah Kiching of Sebakh and Ramah Anai of the air Karama as well as others down from Pacharang, Labang inspected land in the Kelabing within the existing Kelabit Protected Forest and wish to move there next season. This led to requests from the existing Puan houses in the air Kelabing to extend downriver.

"Look-see" parties from the Second Division also inspected the Kelabita area. Their general reaction was that the area was surprisingly far superior but these houses "said" they would accept land there.

Ramah Ungka was resettled at Nunga Jah, air Anap and a site was sought for Ramah Nigling in vain as these people are Seventh Day Adventist Christians. Three Seventh Day Adventist doors were also left at Ramah Posing, Tatum, without anywhere to go.

Ramah Engki which had been borrowing land from the Pundan Malaps between Pandan and Labang was allocated land in the air Sajai for next season.

More and more houses are showing an interest in *sanak* padi and it is gratifying to see that there are beginning to apply for land under title.

During the *sanak* period there were countless squabbles and near clashes and there was a strong demand for special legislation to keep out *sanak*.

The work of the Assistant Co-operative Officer has interested Borneo on the whole and it seems that there is scope for great expansion in this field.

Pongshu Abok started building his new longhouse in Sibu, and so did Tsui Ramah Tiyel at Tatus. Ramah Geling of Serapi was ordered to commence operation by November.

Malay/Melanau

Meetings were held to try and boost the payment of the Binitulu school fees but the results were not as successful as expected.

The people of Kumpang Tatus and Kuala Tatus expressed their willingness to pay a cess towards the building of new schools at these places.

Interest was aroused in the planting of coconuts under subsidy between Kuala Binitulu and Sengul Man but the area was declared unsuitable by the Government Soil Chemist.

Chinese Affairs

Over one hundred and fifty planters in the Schiew Rubber Scheme, Binitulu, were granted loans by the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation.

Much hard work continued to be done at Sibu; many new gardens were cleared and the Binitulu Chinese Agriculture Development Society made an appeal for the grant of more Mixed Zone land in the vicinity.

Work on a new cinema and hotel started at Binitulu. The former will seat 700 persons. Both are expected to be in operation by October.

In February, a new basketball court built with Government assistance was completed at the Chung Hwa School, Binitulu, and declared open.

An entertainment troupe from Singapore spent a week in Binitulu in late June and many people succumbed to their charm.

There were rumours that a Sibu bank was intended in starting up business here.

Local Authority

A new vegetable market was completed with room for fifteen stalls at Binitulu.

The first District Council house was also constructed.

Between the residential houses and the centre shop-house block a new park was laid out and plants were imported from the Botanical Gardens in Singapore.

The bazaar was heightened up with planting of flowering shrubs and the installation of the first mercury vapour lamps.

Binitulu Reading Room was spring cleaned and many new books were purchased. Councillor the Hon'ble Mr. Atchar Khan started distributing magazines and pamphlets to the Local Authority schools.

Mrs Ho Hui Lin returned from training as a midwife in Kaching and started on a busy life in Binitulu.

It was decided that the District Council should train two men to become sub-doctors at Tatus and Sangan respectively and the Director of Medical Services was approached with a view to sending them on a course in the second half of the year.

At a meeting held on 23rd May, the proposed Government policy regarding the financing of primary education and financial assistance to Local Authorities in 1960 was explained to members on the 18th June, 1959. Mr. J. Pike discussed the proposals more fully with the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

An amendment to the Statutory By-laws was approved which makes the By-laws effective within the Pandan town land as from 1960.

Labour

The muskies continued to work only three or four days a week. Mill owners complained that it was

difficult to get workers from the Binitulu Kumpang to work consistently and many Kayans and Kenyahs were employed instead.

At Hack How Sawmill, Tatus, the great majority of the workers are Kayans or Melanau from Mukah.

Forests

The preliminary notification of the proposed constitution of a protected forest in the Sumpang area of Pandan was gazetted—in it is known as the Sumpang Protected Forest.

A working plan for Tatus Protected Forest was approved by the Conservator and silvicultural treatment was carried out there. Mirene representation proved adequate but not so much on the whole.

Due to the increase of the quota, log production, particularly of meranti, grew considerably.

In spite of only working three or four days a week, the muskies complained of a lack of consistent labour.

More storage space for timber and accommodation for staff was provided at Sibu Sawmill.

Similarly at Hack How Sawmill new buildings were erected to replace those destroyed by fire.

Agriculture

After the establishment of a good coconut nursery agreement was reached with eighty-two applicants as to a black-planting site, but on inspection by the Soil Chemist the area was found to be wholly unsuitable. Soil samples were then taken from a coastal site north of Binitulu and appear more promising. Island sites were also chosen for examination.

On the whole the padi crop was if anything a little better than usual though some areas in the old Kemana and also Anap, suffered from insect pests. Serapi particularly had a good harvest and those Dayaks who planted under supervision at Sengul Agricultural Station were also very successful.

In April, the Director of Agriculture, Mr. J. Cook, visited the Schiew Rubber Planting Scheme and also Sengul Station where new acacia and mangrove nurseries have been started.

The telapi fish supplied to a Chinese breeder last year started breeding during the first quarter.

Rubber Development

Following the planting of rubber under subsidy by British Borneo at Sengul Scheme new interest is being shown by many other Borneo longhouses in Binitulu district. They have seen that determined Borneo can plant and maintain their gardens just as well as anyone else.

Similarly, those Malays who have planted under subsidy amongst the Fuchows at Sibu and also at Sengul have kept up a very good standard.

At Sibu sites were taken to encourage black planting by Borneo and Malays below the bazaar by agreeing on a boundary and it is hoped that the Chinese will join in here as well.

One Kayan house, Ramah Akun Labet, at Tatus started preparing land for planting under subsidy.

At Sibu, inspection of gardens was helped by the introduction of extra staff and the system of bedding was reviewed.

It is estimated that 1,500 acres were actually planted up by the end of June. Of these 640 acres were planted with clonal seedlings. Eighty per cent of the gardens ready for bedding had been bedded.

Posts and Telegraphs

The old eleven-line Binitulu telephone exchange was replaced by a thirty-line magnetic board and seven new private and four new Government lines were connected.

Work was also started on the installation of a fifty-line central history exchange.

In April, Miri was linked directly with Bintulu by V.H.F. in order to bypass Balingian when making calls to Sibu and beyond.

Additional equipment has been installed to give a direct link to Sibu, over the multi-channel system. The circuit should improve when the new 300-foot tower which will replace the present 150 foot tower is installed.

The 80.4 Mc/s V.H.F. Marine simplex system was extended to the telephone exchange and any Bintulu or outstation subscriber may now be connected to suitably equipped launches at sea.

Difficulties of telegraphic reception from Miri were cured by a change of frequency and Balingian telegraphs were improved by the installation of a main-operated Mark 2 radio in place of the old battery-operated Mark 3 equipment.

Education

Chege Awang Jaya, Headmaster of the O.E.M.S. School, Bintulu, was selected to fill the post of District Council School Affairs Officer.

Four entirely new schools were started in the Tutut river at Romah Tapai, Romah Kosing, Romah Barro and Romah Pongulu Kana.

The Iban Union School at Kuala Sarapiak was also taken over by the Bintulu District Council.

At Romah Jarau in the Pandan river a private school was registered.

Following this wave of enthusiasm in Tutut, there were various belated requests from other houses in the Baring Kemena.

The boarding houses at Sebau, Pandan and Limbang were completed and all temporary boarders' attacks were dismantled. Teachers were accepted for teachers' quarters for these schools.

At Tutut work started on the new Chinese school and at Kuala Sangan the Seventh Day Adventist Mission opened a new school.

General

On the 11th of May, the new Chief Secretary, Mr. F. D. Jakeway, paid his first visit to Bintulu. He visited the Agricultural Station at Sengas, Sebau, to see rubber being planted under subsidy and returned to Bintulu in the afternoon where he met members of the community at a party in the Bintulu Recreation Club.

Bintulu was fortunate in having no drought during the half year but there was a water shortage for a week caused by a gigantic air-lock following a repair to the main pipeline. This was remedied by inserting the fire engine hose into the pipe and pumping for several hours.

In mid-June, the Bintulu SESCO electricity supply was converted from D.C. to A.C.

Over sixty persons, including four picked dancers and a longhouse orchestra, visited Miri on 27th February in order to be presented to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

In mid-June a regatta was held in Bintulu and attracted record crowds. This was followed in June by the opening of the new playing field, boat sports and a further regatta at Sebau.

LIMBANG DISTRICT

District Officer—D. W. Romboldsen

Crimes

Fourteen criminal cases were heard in the District Court during the period. An interesting case concerning the theft of rubber sheets by three Bidayuh boys led to two of the boys being convicted and placed on probation and the third being released without him

being called on for his defence. Rather he was alleged to have stolen could not be produced and the uncorroborated statements to the Police of the two other boys whilst in custody implicating the boy, could not be accepted by the Court.

Crimes

The statistics of cases and convictions for the District do not show the full picture of crime. There is a strong belief that buffalo-stealing goes on in the Bidayuh area and not all cases are reported. The Bidayuh are loath to report the loss of animals which occasionally disappear because they say it is extremely difficult to get the evidence on which a conviction can be obtained and they themselves do not wish to spend time in making statements and giving evidence when results cannot be obtained. The occasional buffalo "raider" is caught before he can get his catch away over the border into Brunei but there are others who must be lucky and who carry on a sporadic but not unprofitable trade with Brunei middlemen. Buffalo owners have been assured that it is in their own interests to report all losses and that they will be put to the minimum of inconvenience in the investigation of the case. Unfortunately a majority of Bidayuh owners do not know where, at any one time, their semi-domesticated animals are and it is thus often that a loss is discovered some time after the animal has disappeared. The Police are to check possible routes over the Brunei border but this is an unenviable exercise unless information is obtained of disposal before hand.

Fortunately the District is free from organised crime and there is a striking contrast between Limbang and neighbouring Brunei when one looks at the amount of serious crime that is reported in that state. However, Limbang is not free from the risk that crime can be imported from outside. The Iban mardon in the Pandaruan were near enough to Sarawak territory to cause a group of shopkeepers at Uluong to petition for police protection and the forces of law and order tend to be on their guard.

Native Affairs

"No great improvements in the lot of mankind are possible until a great change takes place in the fundamental construction of their modes of thought". John Stuart Mill.

The influence of Brunei on the Limbang Malays and Kodayan has direct and far reaching consequences. I draw attention to these consequences in my previous half-year report but the overall picture has emerged in clearer detail with further travelling amongst these people. Predominantly Brunei exerts an influence through frustration. The welfare state provides well for Brunei Malays and Kodayan and their temperament is attuned to the idea of progress being people in Limbang who have exactly the same temperament but who are required to follow a policy of progress by the application of energy and the practice of co-operation initially from within the community itself. Most do not want progress on these terms. Frustration arises when the community which would obviously like to see progress and which is continuously comparing Limbang, and for that matter Sarawak, with Brunei have to turn down the kind of development that Sarawak offers them. This develops a negative attitude which is notable particularly among the Kodayan of the Pandaruan and Seventh Mile Round Road areas. The attitude inevitably kills at birth schemes for assistance to padi planters, for coconut, and rubber planting and other self-help projects proposed by Government. The attitude also inevitably produces an opinion which opposes the concept of Local Government. I have spoken at length about this here because its significance for the District can be seen when the Malay and Kodayan population make up just under fifty per cent of the total population of the District.

Ruan and Murut

The policy of persuading the small pockets of Murut remaining in the Ulu Limbung to remove to the Lawas District is not successful. A few Murut dooms moved over to Simang in Lawas after the harvest this year. I understand several of those dooms have returned to Limbung. The Senior Murut headmen are very strongly opposed to such a move and I have reason to believe this sentiment is shared by their people. There is a very strong feeling on the part of this minority group that Government have done little for them and have allowed an Iban culture to literally engulf them. It is also true that a number of houses of mixed Tabun/Murut descent have not objected to the Iban incursions onto their land and into their daily lives and have bowed quietly and uncomplainingly to the inevitable. Others have not, however, and they have repeatedly asked Government for a recognition of their entity by appointing a *Pengulu* and protecting them from Iban incursions on their land. It might be time to abandon the policy of "removal has and transfer" and recognise the Murut Community in its ancestral land and provide them with sufficient land for their needs and possible future expansion in numbers.

Assimilation of a minority group is, I suppose, permissible when that group does not object too strongly to the group to which they are being assimilated. There does not appear to be a case for allowing assimilation when there does object. I do not believe there is anything in the contention that the Murut is a dissident individual without any future unless he becomes Christianised. They are excellent farmers and would repay closer attention and time spent by Government in bringing them more in tune with the agricultural and educational developments that are being pressed on the Iban now in Limbung.

Ramah Gani, of all the Iban houses, is showing a most enlightened approach to development. They give have a large area under budded rubber and are adopting all the advice the Agricultural Department can give them and their house will be a prosperous one in years to come.

They have sent trainees to Samarahan Estate to learn the production of high value rubber sheet. Other Iban houses are showing a rather belated interest in the Rubber Planting Scheme but this year should see more houses planting high-yielding rubber.

The Agricultural Department and the Administration have had a difficult time ensuring that Tusi Ramah Nyungang devoted most of his time farming a small area of swamp padi behind Ukong Station. This house was given the area in 1957 to farm annually but very little importance was attached to this work by Tusi Ramah Nyungang and his people.

This year they asked the District Officer for permission to farm hill land in association with the Dayak. They were permitted to farm only two acres per door. Last year they ignored advice and tilled 120 acres outside an area of 60 acres allocated to them for rubber. This year the Local Authority were asked to assist and an order was issued under the Local Authority Ordinance on the advice of the District Officer requiring them to farm swamp padi and to keep within the limit imposed on them for hill padi. The Tusi Ramah seems delighted that this has been done as he could more easily control his house. The Agricultural Officer has personally supervised the work on the swamp padi and it is hoped that this year the first good harvest of swamp padi will be taken from the scheme within the area properly bounded and drained. They are being assisted under the padi-planting aid scheme.

I visited the Madilit river and met the people of the Kalabit houses there in March. They are contented communities, healthy and keenly interested in schooling. They are Christianised houses and show a remarkable fervour in their hymn singing which have replaced their

traditional drinking songs. These people are remote and there is only rare contact with Limbung. There is, however, a flourishing interchange with the Kalabit uplands and with the Ulu Tanch in the Barum. The Ulu Druiser in Kampong Bayu has visited the Madilit several times this year. The Limbung travelling dispensary now looks after this area as the walk over from the Barum is strenuous and can be difficult.

At the opposite end of the district—the Sea Kampong Limpuke Pinang and Ranggas seem to flourish. The Ranggas fishermen are less interested in fishing than splitting Juko for firewood for the profitable Hong Kong market. I am assured earnings are high and are convinced of this when the Kampong have asked to install their own electric light. This is now under investigation. The Ranggas Malak have applied for coconut planting under the scheme. This will be the first time the Kampong have cultivated land and it will be interesting to see the result.

Kampong Tanyaya, a Malay Kampong on the island opposite Kampong Limpuke Pinang, is an agricultural community and they have a fine system of bunds and drains for farming their swamp padi. They have a fine herd of buffaloes. Limpuke Pinang is also an agricultural community living on the edge of the sea but is not a fishing community like Ranggas. These communities, I understand, came from Brunei in the wake of a Kelantan migration further upriver in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The response of the Muslim community to the call for the payment of Zakat and Fiksh was disappointing. Both the Ketua Hajj Abang Opong and Hajj Mamat had religious meetings in Limbung but there is no support for the regular payment of these contributions to their religion. The Malays of Limbung particularly wish to erect a new mosque and the plans for this are going ahead. Twenty-two persons went on the pilgrimage to Mecca. All returned safely. Two Councilmen and a Tan Kampong were among them.

Periodic meetings of all Tan? Kampongs and headmen have been held to outline administrative procedure and policy on certain matters. These have helped Tan? Kampongs in explaining particular Government measures and proposed action in the future.

The Dayak as a group are very much like the Kribayan and Malays in their attitude to change. They are conservative and reluctant to pay for any development either in taxes or in community effort. However, once aroused they can be very co-operative and they present a less difficult problem than the Malays and Kribayan. They are a homogeneous group and require stronger leadership than they have now. This is a fact which applies equally well to Kribayan and less to some Malays in the district. Some of the older and less energetic headmen will retire in 1960 and it is hoped this will prove a stimulus to the reception of new ideas. The Dayak, like the other small groups, the Murut, wish to establish their identity through a flagstaff. There have been petitions to Government to appoint a *Raja* as paramount chief.

The difficult question of planning Kampong Bungkita in the middle of Limbung town seems to have gone forward a stage with Government suggesting that the area be tied out as a residential area under native title and that some of the land be purchased for the creation of a mixed residential area. The vexed question of payment of annual rental and provision is shared for the time being whilst the layout of the Kampong is done.

Limbung District Council

The full Council has met once in every two months during the half year. Committee meetings have been held regularly every month. The Council has on most things shown a readiness to shoulder its responsibilities and work in the best interests of the whole district but unfortunately has been handicapped by lack of

public support. The reason for this, and the action of the community who think in this way, has been indicated in this report where this concerns economic and social welfare and progress generally. The other part of the answer is concerned more with the technicalities of a democratic system of Government and lies at the root of the problem.

The Bornean, Malay and Kadayan representation on the Council is a delegation bringing the opinions of their respective *kampung* to the meeting. There is not the slightest appreciation on the part of the Councilors that they may be more than mere delegates. This is not so with the Borneo and Chinese Councilors. There have been many crucial issues particularly the Government proposal for financing education and the introduction of a system of rating houses, where these Councilors have seriously stated that although they are personally in agreement with a proposal they themselves cannot vote for it because their *kampung* or *kampung* disagree. I feel that this is not merely a personal idiosyncrasy of the Councilors concerned but that this position represents the fundamental opinion and the terms on which the Limbang Malay and Kadayan communities participate in Local Government.

This is unfortunate but will not mean that Local Government will not work, because a delegate system can operate successfully within limits. The development of national parties in the next few years will produce the directives necessary for this system to work smoothly, but it is, however, a serious hindrance to the development of the work of the Council at this juncture. Education and propaganda are the only answers but in the short term it is certain that there will be a conservative and non-progressive native block on the Council for the next few years.

This lack of freedom of manoeuvre in debate in the Council calls for firm guidance from the Chairman. The Limbang District Council has had an elected Chairman ever since 1949 and was one of the first Councils in the country to have an elected Chairman but I consider this to have been premature. An educated Chairman backed by an established code of conducting meetings based on workable standing orders are required. It is hoped to have both in 1960.

The work of the Council has not been spectacular but a reorganisation of the office and the introduction of a calendar of meetings has made things work smoother. A motion by-law and parking by-law have been passed to aid the relations between the Council and the Secretariat on minor points and still remain to be enacted. House and building houses, sanitation and slaughter house by-laws have recently been passed by the Council and will be submitted for passing.

The Council sponsored an agricultural show, regatta and sports at the end of June and they were very successful. Over \$1,000 was raised by the Regatta Committee (the District Office staff) for district relief on this occasion.

The town plan was finally passed after amendments had been agreed. There is a shortage of adequate level vacant land of sufficient size to plan for public playing fields, but it may be possible to reserve a playing field in the Kempong Bangkila area. Plans have been made to enlarge the present King George VI memorial playing field which is not wide enough.

The Council withdrew \$5,000 from the Reserve Fund to install street-lighting switches and this was done by MESCO ready for the introduction of a twenty-four hour electricity service on the 1st July. The full electricity service has not produced any marked increase in consumption but there is a gradual increase and undoubtedly the 24-hour service encourages the use of electricity.

Additions to the new cinema building incorporating shops in Limbang town have been made by order of the Council. The building was built to very poor

standards and it does not appear that the approved plan was followed. The Council will be considering a buildings by-law to make provision for the supervision of the construction of public buildings of this kind.

The Council have improved a three-mile stretch of the Bornean Road, widening and surfacing with a stone and earth binding.

A great deal has been said locally about the position of Secretary to the Council and the necessity for a training course for secretaries and the urgent need to make a career in Local Government Service attractive. The post of Secretary/Treasurer is a highly important and responsible one and I would suggest that the present post of Secretary to a Local Authority, equivalent to Division IV in Government Service, be renamed Division III. A Secretary to a Local Authority is after all an executive officer in the true sense of the word.

In March, the Council discussed at length the plans to be made to improve primary schools throughout the district. Existing schools were in bad repair and local effort to maintain them was very poor. It was decided therefore to extend the payment of education cess of 10 per cent to all natives in the district. This decision was suspended when the Government introduced new proposals for the financing of education. These proposals were debated at length in June and were related to meetings of *kampung* and houses throughout the district. A complete survey of all residential and industrial buildings was made by the administration. The District Officer was appointed valuation officer for this purpose. The proposals for ratings were fully explained throughout the district and people were given every opportunity to discuss them.

The proposals caused great controversy. The major objection raised by the Malays and Kadayans arose through the fear that a rural rate, unconnected to any specific services, might easily be raised without any direct benefit accruing to the rate payers. This fear was effectively exaggerated by the Kadayan Councilors who eventually voted against accepting the proposals. A large majority after a lengthy and stormy debate eventually voted for the introduction of rating and the proposals not forward by Government for existing Local Authorities in 1958. The 1958 budget was passed based on these proposals and it was agreed that the Education Cess by-law of the Council be repealed and amounts paid under the by-law be repaid by the Council in 1960. The by-law originally passed in 1957 had proved ineffective and would have continued to cause trouble in the area of its original application if it had been continued. The new proposals call for the payment of a four per cent rural rate and a four per cent education rate and there is no reason why these rates should not be collected as they represent an average payment per house of only \$1 in each case.

The 1960 Budget of the Council provides for a revenue of 1221,000 and a corresponding expenditure. The total rating percentage levied on property in the Limbang bazaar will be 21.45 per cent. Increases have been voted for the improvement of street lighting, sewerage and the inclusion of the new rate for education.

Education

Two new schools planned for this year are now going ahead. A small village school was planned to serve Kadayan villages in the Sekubiate area. A drop in attendance following a change of school hours from afternoon to morning and the refusal of several villages to share the school led the District Council to change the site of the new school. A two-storey central primary school providing boarding accommodation has been contracted for erection at Batu Dana in the Bornean area.

The Divisional Education Officer has held teachers courses during the vacation and has produced a useful little *Teachers' Newsletter* which includes local contributions, and has had several successful issues. There is urgent need for teachers in the schools who have higher educational qualifications than the majority now teaching. Appointment of teachers already with minimum qualifications does not make this any easier. It is hoped that some new headmasters will be appointed next year who are fully-trained teachers.

School athletics and sports have been encouraged with the holding of an inter-school sports day, held in conjunction with the Regatta and Agricultural Show. The sports day was a great success and well-organised. The cost of the sports was met from funds obtained from the concert party which was put on by all the Limbang schools in April. This was popular and it is hoped will be repeated.

A school has been requested by the two Kelabit houses in the Melilitin and a small school to serve these houses and a Mamut house in the Limbang is planned to be opened in 1960.

Demands for a secondary school in Limbang and Lamin, were voiced in the Fifth Divisional Advisory Council in May. There is local feeling that the school should be opened in 1960 in Limbang and should be opened as an addition to the R.C. Mission Church Primary School, to economise in building costs, and to avoid the trained staff and supervision already established. If a secondary school is to be established, however, I feel that it should be properly planned, the right calibre staff recruited and the school established in its own recreation area away from the town. The school should be founded on intercommunal and multi-racial lines.

Mr. McCallan met representatives of the district interested in secondary education on his visit in August and discussed the subject of a Secondary School. His recommendations are awaited with interest.

The new Chinese School is now virtually complete and it is hoped to open the school late in September. It is a double-storey, well-proportioned building with adequate light and space, built on a fine site overlooking the Limbang river above the Limbang bazaar. A playing area will be made available below the school on the old school site. The building cost is at a total of \$92,000 which is a very large amount and not all of which has been collected. The School Management Committee decided to build as good a school as they could possibly get and this has been their aim for several years. It is good to see their ambitions fulfilled and able to see a well-built attractive school in place of the old shanty one but the fact remains that the school is a very expensive and ambitious project and a little more than the Limbang Chinese can really afford.

Chinese Affairs

The Limbang Tin Pelong Association seems to be moribund at the present time. Moving the Tin Pelong to a site near the riverbank, downstream from the bazaar, has been accepted by the temple and its managers, and a site on the new area of filling at Sungai Manikita will be available this year. The present temple is near the new dispensary and worship can interfere with the space of the area and it is intended that the Tin Pelong should move.

The dozens or so Hakka families who came to Limbang over a year ago are still to await settlement on land. The area of settlement near to the Brunai Border, in the vicinity of Bukit Liang is compromised by the uncertainty about the position of the territorial boundary. The settlement of the boundary is to go to a committee headed by an independent member from Malaya. Meanwhile other areas of settlement are being examined but it appears the migrants will have another long wait before land is provided. Rubber land at

Uking is available and land may be available along the Brunai Road at Pender—of the two areas the Hakka prefer the latter. It is unfortunate that the additional complication of a boundary settlement has interfered with provision of land unencumbered with native rights and free from dispute. This requirement has not unfortunately been met in regard to either the Pender or Hakka newcomers.

The Chinese Settlement Schemes in the district have unfortunately not been a great success. Provision of unencumbered land as I have said is a first necessity and migrants should only be invited when this has been done. The risk that land brought out will not be used can be eliminated by selection of settlers who are willing to settle on land with their families and who have seen the land and agreed on the area they are to use. Deposits can be treated as a further safeguard. In the early stages of a settlement scheme it is necessary to have genuine smallholders, the auxiliary condition can come in later.

Some people have been advocating the revival of the position of Captain China in Limbang. At present the elected Chinese Councilmen on the District Council act as an unofficial body to deal with human matters. There are many advantages in having a Captain China, not less the facility with which the administration can deal with human affairs through the one intermediary. The person chosen, however, works reasonably well and so long as District Councilmen can also be friend and councillor to those who seek their advice there does not seem to be a case for the revival of the Captain.

Public Works

Roads have deteriorated badly owing to the very heavy continuous traffic running over them. The main road linking the Brunai Road with the bazaar has suffered the most. This road should be made and surfaced. The bazaar roads have also received punishment but the Council can only afford to rehabilitate them section by section. It appears the basis of these roads has been undermined and it will be a costly business to remake them. Funds have been requested to assist with their improvement.

A culvert and drainage channel have been constructed from Miller Works Funds to prevent flooding of the Government housing area.

The work on the Brunau/Kabong Road from where roads and paths leads southwards of a D6. The road requires grading, banking and surfacing to bridge points and bridging will follow the road. Public Works Department assistance was sought for this road in April and a full technical survey of the road was completed in August. At the time of writing, the equipment needed has not arrived and it is doubtful whether it will arrive in time to begin work before the wet weather.

A cinema and shop block has been erected by Forestry contractors from Sibau. The building is nearing completion and is taking on a more pleasing appearance. As mentioned earlier the construction of the building left a lot to be desired due mainly to the poor quality of the technical supervision employed by the contractor.

Health

The value of a hospital in Limbang has not lessened since my last report and the Divisional Medical Officer has now recommended that one should be established here and a doctor posted to Limbang. Over 2,000 patients have been recorded through the dispensary in the half year.

Standards of public health in Limbang have been the subject of adverse criticism from the Medical authorities. The Health Inspector has worked diligently towards cleaner drains and tidier market places and

has achieved some creditable results. The District Council have been accused of being the villains of the piece, but they have approached the problems responsibly and have recently passed a number of by-laws which will assist in the improvement of public health in the bazaar.

The solution to the problem of providing a healthier place for people to live and improving the health of people will only be found in an effective public health education campaign throughout the country. In Limbang there is much ignorance and a pathetic disbelief in the powers of modern medicine. One case of a mother dying in childbirth with the midwife and hospital assistants being called at the last minute—refusing to be separated from her child although not to be replaced her in imminent peril, shows how clearly the mind must be trained to the idea of modern treatment before it can be used.

The Sarawak Anti-Malaria team sprayed the district in August and it was noticeable that there was more opposition to spraying than there had been on previous spraying operations. Resistance of insects to the spray gives rise to a reduction in the mortality of insects and there is therefore less to show. There were complaints that when the spraying was done on a previous occasion the net result was more bed bugs. It was difficult to collect blood samples from children at Kampong Kangas essentially because the superstitions of the older people had been communicated to the children who were then frightened to come forward and have their finger pricked. The situation points to the necessity of putting over as much propaganda on health, anti-malaria and the importance of medical attention as can be thought up and effectively communicated on a mass scale. Every educated person is a help in a campaign of this sort but it is surprising to find how many of our own staff are ignorant of the benefits of medical attention.

The District Council has sent a Chinese and a Malay girl to Kuala Lumpur for training as midwives.

The Travelling Doctor, Fourth and Fifth Divisions, visited Limbang twice during the half year. Travelling to the headwaters of the Melakut and onto the Ulu Tutoh in the Baram on one occasion.

Kampong Kangas—a place where it might perhaps pay to conduct an intensive public health experiment and flood the place with Doctors, Health Inspectors, Midwives and Nurses—had an infection which quickly passed through the kampong and caused the death of over a score of new-born babies. The birth-rate here is very high and the report was not made until the District Officer was visiting some months after the epidemic. No cause for the deaths has been found. The kampong is not a healthy place—housing over 500 persons who live packed on each others' doorsteps.

Labour

One sawmill proprietor is bringing in Iban labour from Bintulu and elsewhere as he cannot depend on local labour to work continuously and to produce timber for transportation down the Limbang river at a stated time. These Ibans are working under contract.

Contractors who have taken on the whole of the Public Works Department building programme in the Fifth Division this year have brought in skilled Hong Kong artisans previously employed on building work in Kuala Belait and other parts of Brunei State. A few Foochow carpenters and masons are employed in Limbang on public buildings but the contractors stand a fair chance of obtaining labour could not be formed from local sources. The immigrant Foochow artisan tends generally to stick with his fellows and hence the price of labour up.

The Public Works Department labour force is not as large as it has been in the past months. Some direct work is being done for the District Council but this does not require a large labour force.

The wandering Iban from the Third and Second Divisions still makes his way to Limbang from work which has ceased in Brunei State. However, the numbers are fewer than they were six months ago.

Telephone and V.R.F.

A total of fifty-five telephones are in service in Limbang. Two new subscribers were connected during the half year and seven asked to be disconnected following the increase in hire rates and rise of trunk lines. There were eighteen new telephones installed in the preceding half year.

Padi Purchase

Government padi purchase policy has been hotly debated in Limbang. The six padi purchasing centres at Batu Danau, Uluong and Nanga Modak were closed down and a time limit placed on the purchase of padi. All purchases ceased on the 31st July but has since been recommended at a guaranteed price of \$13.50 per picul. The amount of padi purchased during the half year, considerably less than 2,000 piculs, shows a very large decrease in purchase on previous years when purchase has been of the order of four to five thousand piculs.

The subsidised purchase of padi in Limbang undoubtedly influenced the *ulu farmer* and he probably put down more padi than he required for consumption and storage in the hope that it would yield cash. The 1958 season was a relatively good one and the *ulu farmer* supplemented his cash income thereby. The 1959 harvest was better and the farmer was left with padi he wished to sell. Protest was immediate from farmers and particularly vehement from the small *ulu farmer* shopkeeper who, of course, missed the expected increase in the volume of trade.

The continuation of purchase at the recent price will not substantially affect the amount purchased unless *ulu purchasing facilities* are provided. It is uneconomic to ship padi to Limbang at a price of \$14.50 per picul and the new guaranteed price is lower than this.

Trade and Shipping

The economic position of the district reflects the general trend of the country. There has been an increase in the volume and value of exports following the greater buoyancy of the market for rubber. Export duties collected in the half year to date represent approximately \$220,000 and imports \$180,000. This contrasts sharply with last year's trade returns which show duty collections at approximately only half a million for the year.

Rubber prices have encouraged the smallholders to tap his neglected gardens. This is particularly noticeable around Limbang with the Malay and Kadayan gardens. The quality of rubber is poor, however.

Agriculture

The Coconut Planting Scheme has not been as successful in the early stages as was hoped. The number of applications for planting have been increasing as knowledge of the scheme spreads. Malay, Kadayan and Chinese have applied and latterly a few Iban houses have shown some interest but they are not very interested in large-scale planting. A nursery of selected rats for planting has been established in Limbang and these are slowly being delivered to planters. A total of forty-six acres of planting has been approved for the district and an energetic drive to have more gardens planted is now being carried on. Problems of fencing out pigs and buffalo from gardens have been considered and a system of supplying watchmen for large acreages is under consideration.

The Rubber Planting Scheme is progressing slowly but there is every prospect that much larger areas will come under high-yielding rubber in the future as the success and the standards obtained by smallholders

becomes more widely known. Limbung statistics show 844 acres planted under the scheme with 1129.50 approved and set to be planted. The Rubber Development Officer reports standard of terracing and upkeep of gardens is high.

A small processing centre has been established at Ramah Gani at Nanga Medani where a processing shed and smokehouse is to be operated under supervision, and courses for local farmers will be held there when the scheme is fully operating. The house sent inmates to the Samarahan course in June together with other representatives from the district. It is interesting to see that Kuduans in both Limbung and Lawas have found some of the best terrace gardens under the scheme.

The Padi Planting Scheme was put into operation earlier in the year and selected areas were given the opportunity of participation under the scheme. Mention has been made that Tan Kueh Neopang has been encouraged to lay out benches and drain thirty acres of swampy land at Uluong. He is being assisted under the scheme. An offer to assist Kuduans planters in the Pandaruan area was politely refused on the grounds that their age-old methods of farming swamp would continue to do. Suggestions to fence and drain their land are not new as Mr. Anderson, a previous Resident, had attempted to get a number of Kampong interested but presumably had no more success than we did. A Malay area near to the town was then selected but unfortunately, because the Kampong people selected were born, the scheme had to be abandoned as much of the area was deep peat. A trial has since been commenced in a Boraah area near Kampong Jawa with a nucleus of ex-Kanowit Rural School pupils.

The agricultural show held by the District Council was a success in that it drew crowds from all over the district who saw various demonstrations and displays by the Agricultural Department. Exhibits were mostly of a high standard but the number of entries was limited. The buffaloes stole the show. There were some fine looking boars roaming the Malay School parking where the show was held.

A great need in Limbung is to encourage vegetable and fruit growing. The Agricultural Department is working hard at this but an organised market seems to be essential in the case of vegetables. A new market by-laws compelling everyone who sells vegetables to sell them in the marketplace may help to stimulate an interchange between customers and vendor that is needed. The vegetable growers will follow where they know a demand is there.

Suggestions have been made from time to time for the buffalo salween or grazing grounds in the district to be fenced. The advantages are numerous—not the least being the general improvement of stock resulting from the easier control of animals. There is vocal support for the idea from District Councillors and others but I doubt whether the fencing can be enforced. A possible long-term approach towards universal fencing might be to introduce fencing as a condition of a grazing title to land and then see that every large grazing area is covered by a title.

Export of sawn timber and logs from the district during the half year has been small. The Hong Seng Chan sawmill has moved to a site nearer from the town and has rapidly established itself and is exporting mainly sawn timber to the Brunei market. The Gudang sawmill has virtually ceased production of sawn timber and the proprietor is reorganising his extraction system. It appears that there is very little hope of the timber industry expanding whilst the market is confined to supplying first quality sawn timber. There is not the demand for this in Brunei now and this is the principal market. On the other hand logs have been exported to Hong Kong and there is a potential market in Japan if shipments can be maintained to warmer vessels being chartered to take on a full load

of logs. At present prices it is not an economic proposition to saw timber for export outside Brunei State, and given the present demand there, it is not possible to export sawn timber on a large scale.

Extraction of logs has always been difficult. Limbung Trading Company who own Gudang sawmills are experimenting with winching—both aerially have for the first time put in trails to extract logs but this is an expensive and a difficult proposition. The employment of tractors has been investigated but the nature of the terrain over most of the licensed areas has ruled this out.

Logs can and should be exported. There is a demand outside the country for logs. Shipping facilities, of course, are non-existent. Exporters do not have the advantages of the facilities available to exporters in the Kelang or the Sarawak rivers. If a shipment is to be made, a barge has to be chartered and loaded in Brunei Bay, and this can be risky and expensive.

Land

There have been fewer applications for land during this half year than last. There were also fewer titles notified from Miri to here. It is noticeable, however, that in the last three months there has been a growing number of applications for land to participate in the rubber and coconut schemes and it is hoped this will continue.

A settlement area was gazetted in August and the Settlement Officer, Mr. E. Britton, has arranged to withdraw all old titles and issue with new. A number of anomalies have been rectified and a general tidying up of the land situation over a relatively small area is in process of being completed. It is proposed that small Kampong communal areas be gazetted native area and titles issued to avoid unplanned sprawling.

Limbung is fortunate that at the very centre of the town there is a fine-class potential residential area at Kampong Bangkit. Proposals for the development of this area acknowledge its importance to the town and a residential layout is to be planned and native area titles issued. Rights in a small area will probably be bought out and a mixed residential area developed. The central town area must be sorted before residential settlement is allowed outside the town boundaries.

The Land and Survey Department has utilized an old quarters to provide their supervisory staff with accommodation and during office space. This has been done very cheaply and quickly and the results are good. This points to our general problem here of lack of a good office for all departments. Until an office is built to provide all the branches of Government with reasonable premises, the efficiency of all departments is affected.

LAWAS DISTRICT

District Officer—J. T. Winkler

Court

Court work was light as usual but three long outstanding and very difficult Native Court cases were finally settled, two without appeal. One had been unsettled since pre-war days.

Crime

There has been very little serious crime except for a matter which arose when the Wala' Pongah and various other village leaders in Long Semadoh attempted to hush up the accidental killing of a child by another child, and so that the traditional rans might be paid, and so that the gun should not be confiscated. Eventually news of the killing leaked out and an inquest was held on the spot. Witnesses took an oath upon the Bible. Being members of the flock of the Borneo Evangelical Mission, and forthwith

perjured themselves, thus committing a most serious offence. They came before the Acting Chief Justice, who sentenced the Penghulu and a *Tua Kempong* to two months' imprisonment each on the charge of perjury. They were acquitted of failing to report the death as the Upriver Agent finally admitted that the death had in fact been reported to him. A charge is understood to be pending against him.

This is not the first time the Muruts have shown themselves lacking in confidence in Government. This is not surprising to the administration by the Mission, which craves loyalty, is so much closer than that of the Government. However, in this instance offences were committed which were declared equally by the Mission. It is remarkable that the conscience of the mass of very devout Muruts in Long Sengadok should tolerate perjury on the Bible.

Land

Pochoh Area. The number of immigrants is increasing steadily and to date forty-nine applications for 780 acres of land have been received. Survey is going on steadily but very slowly owing to an inadequate number of survey parties being available in the district. However, survey was complete on about twenty lots at the end of the half-year. The survey of native rights with a view to their surrender was also in progress and money for the purchase of 487.27 acres from three persons made available.

The firstcomers were given the choice roadside lots and present applicants must find land further away from the road. This has caused a temporary setback and a number of potential Pochoh applicants gave up the idea. So far only three second-row lots have been allocated but there are signs that the Pochoh attitude on this matter is softening. One of the difficulties is that there is still available land alongside the road elsewhere outside the Pochoh area. This could be purchased by direct negotiation from the owners at \$15.00 per acre. However, in the course of the next year or two all this land will be taken up by local residents, including natives, and perhaps by Muruts immigrating from Limbang district. It was considered unsatisfactory to permit a situation whereby Pochoh immigrants obtained a narrow ribbon of land along the whole length of the road. So the present rule is all Pochoh immigrants to be in the Pochoh area, if along the Trean road. However, of course, they can find their own land.

It is hoped that money for the purchase of native rights in the whole of the Pochoh area will be made available. It would be still better if Government were to purchase in addition all available native rights along the whole length of the road so that the whole stretch could be properly planned. There is no doubt that Government could more than recover its money in premiums. Present advice is, however, that sufficient money is not available.

At the end of the half-year detailed proposals were being drafted for the granting of new mixed zones for the Pochoh area and elsewhere.

This scheme involved the laying out of a first-class residential area between the new bazaar and the river, and approximately on the site of the old bazaar. After protracted negotiations, the owners of land in this area have agreed to sub-divide into lots of a little under a quarter of an acre. Having agreed to sub-divide, and before even their assumed titles had been secured and the area surveyed, the owners said eight of these lots under preliminary notes at prices in excess of \$2,000.00 per lot. The layout of this area appears extremely good and the bazaar area, when complete, should look very fine if Government can provide services such as roads and water supplies and provided that the District Council is adequate in meeting high building standards in the area. But this is for the future.

In addition to the proposed new Mixed Zone in the Pochoh area, four other areas were under consideration for granting. Application has since been made. The district's problem of under-population is appreciated, not only by the people's leaders but also by the people themselves; and it is the unanimous desire of the people that immigrants be found in order to provide the population necessary before roads and other services can be provided. The Muruts are particularly co-operative in giving their surplus land for this purpose.

The Malays and Kadayans have few large blocks of good land which they can spare as their population is scattered thinly about the whole of their areas. But there are plenty of pieces of land of up to fifty acres which are available and surplus to Malay requirements. Altogether proposals envisaged above would make available over 20,000 acres of new land if access roads be provided.

General

The rush for land is continuing among all communities but particularly among Malays, Kadayans and Chinese. New land applications for the half-year number eighty-five as opposed to 180 for the end of last year. But this figure is not a true indication as many applications for specific blocks of land have been held up pending closer investigations of native rights. A number of land disputes have been settled by negotiation or arbitration—a number more are pending litigation.

One of the problems in this respect is that Kadayans and Malays have been farming paddy and planting fruit groves on Murut land for years with the tacit consent of the owners who had so much land they did not care. In time the "squatters" come to regard the land as their own, but when they take out applications the true Murut owners, not unreasonably, step in with a fine feeling of indignation. However, it is to be hoped that the bulk of these disputes along the boundaries between Muruts and Kadayans north of the Trean Road will be resolved in the near future.

The most pressing matter, as seen by the people in the district is the provision of more survey parties. Limas District with a total of seven survey parties may seem to be doing quite well but five of these parties are doing revision and other specialised work. The shortage would not matter so much if it resulted only in the delay of the survey of individual land applications, but it is serious in that it holds up development and survey of racial blocks and other schemes involving whole communities.

Export. The planning of a new layout for the Trean bazaar was requested and is urgently required, as the bazaar which has regressed since pre-war days, begins to assume a considerable importance. Unfortunately this work too has been held up through lack of survey parties.

Agriculture

Padi. The hill padi crop was excellent on the whole and came up to expectations though a few *Jampoung* incurred very heavy losses through pest damage. All the Muruts were anxious to obtain and use Agribrite—in its properties are well appreciated. Problems of distribution to all *Jampoung* are, however, very considerable. Plans to overcome these have been put in hand and it is to be hoped that better success will obtain in future.

As reported previously, a number of Muruts used zinc phosphide with considerable success for the first time. It is to be expected that very much larger supplies will be required for the coming season.

It is pleasant to report that the padi prospered in those areas where wooden buffalo-drawn ploughs were used for the first time, as indeed it did where the Mission tractor was used. Larger scale schemes have been put in hand for the coming year but it is too soon to predict success or otherwise.

Among the difficulties is the fact that Malaya tended to give up swamp padi planting in the last few years, and either take to the hills or use plain padi at all. The task of the Agriculture Department to draw them back to the swamps is not an easy one.

A second problem is that the Malaya tend to be late with their planting anyway, and the use of a plough, which they often need to wait for, tends to make them later still.

Rubber. The high prices of rubber has caused infectious tapping and a total of 4,774.91 pikuls was exported as opposed to 5,722.12 pikuls for the previous half-year.

In the meantime the planting of new rubber has progressed very satisfactorily and a considerably higher standard of husbandry and efficiency has been achieved as a result of the employment of a Rubber Development Officer in the Division.

The wave of complaints against the very high standard of husbandry now required which was previously reported, has died down considerably. As no applications for 1960 plantings have yet been accepted it is difficult to say whether many people who would otherwise have applied, have been discouraged. But observations tend to show that a considerable number of people are still interested.

The position in regard to the supply of material has eased.

Coffee. The Muruts in the sibs continue to clamour for coffee and no further supplies of seed, unfortunately, were made. The seed delivered at the end of last year prospered as far as Pa Brayang where extremely good results were reported. From there upwards the seed lost its viability and in Buh Kikalan it was a total failure. Some of the Long Samandoh Kampongs have used their own initiative in obtaining seed from the sibs Padas several days' walk away in North Borneo. This is on the whole doing well. It is to be hoped that the Agriculture Department will be able to attempt to supply more seed.

Cocconuts. There would appear to be a slight falling off in enthusiasm in planting cocconuts, the cause of which is not immediately apparent. However, the cocconut nursery is doing well and no doubt improved will arrive after the post season.

Livestock. The Buffalo Sub-committee has continued to enforce its total ban on the export of buffaloes and cattle. At the beginning of the year there was violent opposition to this rule but this has since died down as a number of owners are obtaining adequate profits by slaughtering locally. This ban, though the overall effect has probably been to the good of the District, has nevertheless resulted in a reduction of the number of buffaloes being brought down by the Muruts in the sibs who are better off for breeding stock than the Malaya. The sibs Murut may profit by bringing one buffalo for slaughter but the profits to bring down half a dozen at one time for direct sale and export.

The provision of Sulfones or similar anti-helmintic preparations was not able to be undertaken by the Agriculture Department but at the end of the period under review the Local Authorities purchased small quantities for free distribution as samples to the leading freestock owners. Under this stimulus it is to be hoped that the owners will be enthusiastic to purchase this for themselves.

Chickens. The supply of Australorp and Rhode Island Reds to the various Kampongs which was made last year has not been followed up in spite of the very considerable success that these birds have had in some areas. Tan Kampong Ating Pukan at Buh Kikalan is particularly to be congratulated. He has distributed over sixty half-bred birds to his neighbours on the basis of an improved bird for a Kampong bird. Public

spirit of this kind deserves a reward of an extra bird or two, and it is understood that this is in hand. Tan Kampong Bunan Tukan on the other hand insists on two Kampong birds for one of his own half-breeds and this rate is considered unreasonable.

Tobacco. There are signs that there is a certain softening in the attitude of some Muruts (most Kelabits are willing) towards the planting of this crop. Unfortunately, on the only occasion it was attempted to supply seed to a Murut who asked for it, the seed mysteriously disappeared en route. It is to be hoped that these attempts will be continued. There is no softening in the opposition of the Muruts.

Courtesy. The most valuable short courses at Bangkita station for sibs farmers were discontinued at the end of last year. Proposals to revive them with an allowance of only \$1.00 a day, may or may not succeed. The trouble is that the sibs people though rich in produce are poor in cash.

The pigs that were distributed to satisfactory students last year have for the most part died. It is suggested, however, that the value of these pigs is contingent entirely upon the establishment of an sibs air service as it is doubtful if they, or even their off-spring, will be able to stand a ninety-mile mountainous walk with the sprints of their native counterparts.

Education

A new school was opened in January at Long Luping in the old Mission school building. All but three of the available children attended including a number who are somewhat over aged. They had attended the old Mission School and remained on at the request of the Mission where they will be accepted as Trainee Pupils. A Grade IIIA teacher was posted there. He has forty-seven pupils, and if he works hard he has every chance of producing a first-class rural school. The local people are most progressive and co-operative.

The new five-class Anson school buildings at Long Tukan and Kuala Luran were opened in January and also the new timber school at Sander. The opening of these schools removed the last vestiges of opposition for paying education fees. The District Council is justifiably proud of them.

Teachers. Four new IIIA Malay teachers were posted to the district—three took over the headmastership of smaller rural schools and one became assistant teacher in the Lawas School. This has considerably eased the situation but has by no means solved the problem of the shortage of Malay teachers. Kuala Luran School for instance has 150 pupils and only one trained teacher. Competition is so great for education beyond Primary IV that it is doubtful if many of these children have a chance of further progress. There is but little chance of any Malaya being accepted in Batu Lintang next year, and the educational future of the district remains dependent upon more trained teachers being provided from outside. The position in the two Malay Upper Primary schools is equally acute. It is to be hoped that serious attention will be paid to the teacher shortage in this district as the progressive attitude of the people, their willingness to pay fees and the co-operation and understanding which they are always willing to offer deserve a reward.

The position in Murut schools is still worse. The seven schools share only four trained teachers. Only one has so far been permitted an Upper Primary section, though if distance and school population be taken into consideration, the Muruts deserve three Upper Primary schools.

The situation will be still further aggravated if, as is hoped, the four best trained Murut teachers are accepted next year for training in Batu Lintang. The people have expressed themselves willing to accept teachers of one race except Iban or Malay (and the latter only because of difficulties with food, etc.) and it is hoped that something may be worked out on these lines.

In general all teachers have worked well throughout the half year in the face often of considerable difficulties. The energy, spirit and wisdom of some of the older trained teachers are in particular to be commended.

Attendance. The total attendance in the district schools this year has been 1,167 as opposed to 1,061 in 1958. A considerable increase again is expected next year, when entry will be limited to children aged nine or under.

Daily attendance has been variable ranging downwards from about ninety-eight per cent at Rih Ketchin. Two schools, Mirapok and Malaya have struck a bad patch. The District Council has taken stern measures to ensure improvement.

Textbooks. The supply of textbooks and equipment has been satisfactory. Indeed, owing to the error in the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer of the Lawas District Council more textbooks were ordered than either the Council could use or afford.

New Proposals. Grants have been approved for the construction of new schools at Awat, Trusan, Long Semadoh and Rih Ketchin. The two old schools will be built, painted, and furniture provided by the people themselves for \$10,000.00 each to a simple plan. It is expected that work will be finished by the end of the year. The two dormitory schools have been put into the hands of the Public Works Department. They were on the drawing board at the end of the period in question and it is not expected that they will be completed this year.

The lack of teachers' quarters is serious. All but two applications for grants were turned down and the Local Authority has not the money, even if it uses the whole of its reserve fund, to undertake the cost of construction.

An application for a loan from Government was also refused. Thus it seems likely that teachers will continue to live in squats in Lawas District. The situation in Lawas itself is even worse. Building By-laws prevent the construction of quarters in local materials, bamboo, etc. There are no houses available for renting. The problem appears insoluble as far as the District Council is concerned.

Chinese Schools. The main worry of the Chinese School Committee, namely, the provision of English-speaking school teachers, has been ameliorated. Two trained teachers ex-Sibs have been posted to the Chang Hsin School, Lawas, and one untrained but English speaking teacher has been obtained for Trusan.

Unfortunately the application for a building grant at Lawas was turned down. The present building is shabby and is likely to become dangerous. The new bazaar and residential area, as planned, will be to a very high standard. It will be unfortunate if the Chinese School Committee with their central site are compelled to rebuild to a standard not in keeping with the rest of the neighbourhood.

Medical

The two dispensaries at Sander and Lawas have treated 1,648 and 3,364 patients during the half-year. Painting and repair of the Lawas Dispensary was

begun. Dr. Lee of the Roman Evangelical Mission and Mrs. Devanish, continued to visit weekly when in the station and have done useful work. The dispensary attendant from Lawas has travelled the nearby kampongs as far as Mirapok and Awat regularly from Mondays to Thursdays with occasional visits to the Tagul houses of the old Mirapok. The Hospital Assistant at Sander has held weekly clinics at Trusan. These have proved very successful and are very popular with the local people. His attendant has travelled occasionally as far as Long Tengas on the Trusan.

In addition to these services two out of the three old Doctors have carried out really first-class work, not only in the treatment of sick, but also in matters of hygiene and disease prevention. To anyone who visited the area shortly before these doctors started work the improvement is quite remarkable. The third doctor, regrettably, has not been attending to his duties and has spent long periods absent without leave. The doctor at Rih Ketchin who treats an average of three hundred persons per month, is providing a useful service for Indonesians coming in over the border. The kampong people have built a new sleeping room and kitchen quarters to accommodate these visitors.

It is to be hoped that a permanent dispensary will be constructed there before long as the present one, though quite a good effort by voluntary labour, is nothing to write home about. The Long Semadoh Dispensary which was completed at the end of last year, has plenty of accommodation but people seldom stay there as their homes are not too distant. The midwives at Lawas and Long Semadoh have been working and are gradually making headway though they still have not sufficient work to do.

There have been no serious epidemics and T.B. has remained the main problem. A large number of suspected cases have been sent to Brunei for X-Ray, and the weekly lunch sessions carried less than three and four persons for treatment in Brunei Hospital.

The drug situation has been depressing in the extreme and has been a constant source of worry to the Lawas District Council, the public and the Doctors. There has been a failure to fill orders for even the main vital drugs. Hospital Assistants have been unable to treat their patients adequately. They lose confidence in themselves under these circumstances and the public loses confidence in them. Among the drugs of which the Doctors have been unable to obtain sufficient supplies are penicillin, sulphaguanidine, all anti-malarial drugs, eye ointments and even such things as aspirin, bandages, etc. The Mission has helped out from time to time in cases of emergency.

The Travelling Doctor has visited the district three times and has carried out most valuable work. He is now well known to the public and his visits are eagerly looked forward to, particularly by the old doctors who are so keen to learn more about their job from him.

The W.H.O. carried out their fourth spraying of the district with considerable efficiency. However, positive cases of malaria have been found in the Trusan and undoubtedly other cases occur from time to time. These are probably caused by Indonesians who come down from over the border.

In February, a suggestion was made that they should be given a prophylactic at Bak Kelsan where their travel documents are stamped. So far there has been no reply to this proposal. It seems one of the few ways of preventing constant reinfection after spraying has been carried out, until such time as spraying is done over the border.

Chinese Affairs

After considerable delays, the plan of the new bazaar in Lawas was eventually put down for tender and a contractor was selected for the construction of the new bazaar at a reasonable price of \$18,850.00 per inside shop. The basic plan is for a brick ground-floor and a timber first floor but many traders are building in brick throughout. The work is scheduled for completion in eighteen months. In the meantime the Chinese, in common with other races, have not been backward in taking out land applications. The price of land has continued to rise and an acre of rubber land near Lawas now changes hands at about \$1,500.00 approximately double the price of two years ago. Mention has been made, under another section, of the Poochoo Settlement Area, but the Poochoos are already making an impact on trade in the district. A number of the would-be immigrants are finding temporary work as coolies and semi-skilled artisans with contractors, and they will undoubtedly play their part in the construction of the new bazaar. Wealthy Poochoos in Brunei are investing in land and property in Lawas Bazaar, in spite of difficulties of immigration of which they have been warned.

The spirit of optimism, commented upon in previous reports, continues; and although the Trusan road is still far from completion, thirteen private vehicles have already been formed.

In order to manage their affairs, particularly in connection with the construction of the new bazaar, the traders have elected a committee calling itself the Lawas Bazaar Improvement Committee. The prevailing mood of optimism in Lawas is matched by one of depression in Sander. Much of the middle Trusan trade is already finding its way to Lawas. Traders in Sander are turning their thoughts more and more towards farming.

Native Affairs

A controversy has been raging among the Melan communities about the payment of Zakat and Fitrah after a move to make the payment of these dues compulsory. Many kampongs argued that there was no authority to compel payment. The President of Majlis Islam and Dato' Ahang Morni visited the district prior to the writing of this report and were able to overcome much of the opposition after a quick tour.

A progressive young man named Langit Ponghai was elected Pengeri Ponghai in Long Senasoh, vice Ganang Lim. He commanded a large majority and it is to be hoped that his influence will help to reconcile this group of kampongs which have had constant disputes among themselves.

A group of Muruts from Limbang district moved into Lawas seeking refuge from the constant land disputes with Ibanas which occur in their own district.

Ponghai Shai of Long Kuchin toured the Limbang district to find further Murut immigrants. These Limbang Muruts are badly needed to develop under-populated areas in the district.

Kampung Beliput has been persuaded to start a move on to the Panang Road and to abandon their present area at Kuala Beliput, which is very isolated and where the land is not good. The population of this area is now considerable and the question of providing a school must be considered.

The Mission has been strengthened by the addition of four more persons, making a total of fifteen and they have been particularly active among the Muruts this half year.

Local Authority

The Local Authority has operated successfully and has come in for little criticism from the public in spite of its shortage of staff. It has passed resolutions on a wide variety of subjects, the most important of which was that Head Tax and Education Cess would be abolished and rates in line with those four per cent imposed in 1948. This will result in an increase of revenue of \$9,000.00 from Government matching grants. Without this relief the Local Authority would have been well on the road to bankruptcy. This measure was passed with very little opposition.

Another resolution of considerable district importance supported the creation of new and large areas of Mixed Zone.

Communications

The Trusan Road. In the last report it was remarked that a considerable wastage of money was taking place owing to the lack of a decision in regard to what standard the road should be constructed. It is understood that up to the present time still no decision has been reached in regard to surfacing. Rainfall, particularly during May, was extremely heavy, and heavy erosion has been considerable. Much of the work of compacting the earth surface must have been wasted and considerable deterioration is obvious. Failure to surface is costing a good deal of public money. In spite of difficulties with the weather, the road at the time of writing has been pushed through nearly to Trusan and a Bailey bridge over the Seng2 River has been put up. The first three and half miles is in bad or even bad but a new route has been surveyed.

The road to Midasak and Panang has been improved by the Local Authority but owing to heavy rain it is still not open to traffic. No progress on the Gava road had been made up to the end of the half-year pending construction of a Bailey bridge over the Gava. The bridge itself arrived in May.

Air Services

An airstrip has been in use throughout the year and has a good grass covering and is hard and well drained. However, it is shorter than it should be and dangerous for some pilots in wet weather as there is a tendency to skid on the wet grass when pulling up hard. The

only satisfactory answer is to lengthen the strip, which would not be difficult with the heavy equipment already in Lawas. An average number of five passengers per trip is carried. It could, however, be filled to capacity if, in the first place, there was more certainty that it would fly in wet weather and secondly, if the schedules were altered in order to conform with the needs of the public.

The Mission have purchased a Piper Tri-Pacer in addition to the Auster which is due for major overhaul and the installation of a more powerful engine. The new plane has better performance than the Auster and can carry a freight of nearly 600 lbs. It has provided a most useful service for the six Muruts. These people have become very air minded and it is amusing to watch old men and women who have never flown before hop in the plane and set off with complete serenity!

On Air Service

This problem is always in the minds of the people and the writer has been connected to many inaccessible and rugged mountain places where the local people are firmly convinced that a strip could be built. Councillors from all areas have been submitting both in the District Council and elsewhere trying to obtain Government approval for the initiation of a strike. It is understood that their efforts have been rewarded in so far as an investigation of sites in Biah Kelatan has been authorized. The best potential site in Biah Kelatan is far inferior to the site available in Long Semaloh which is more central to the Sarawak Murut population. It is to be hoped that if the Biah Kelatan site is not good enough, Long Semaloh will be considered. However, if a Twin Pioneer service is to be made to pay all these jumpers should be given stripes and the road abandoned saving a recurrent annual expenditure of \$6,000.00.

On Trunk Track

Routing maintenance of this track has been carried out.

Telecommunications

The telephone service to the outside world has been fairly satisfactory though that to Sander was interrupted on two occasions. The land line to Trawas has been completed between the 4th and 8th mile. It is understood that the rest will be done as soon as the bulldozers have finished working on the road. The first four miles to the Public Works Department Office, which still uses the old line, is very bad and frequently out of order.

Water Transport

The *Alpok* which must be one of the most heavily loaded launches in Sarawak has continued to ply between Brunei/Limbang (Lawas, often working seven days per week. This pressure could only be alleviated by Bernco Airways amending their schedules, which it is understood they are now considering. Resident and District Officers' outboard engines and long boats are in very bad condition both at Sander and Lawas and are seldom running.

Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals

Mr. Edward Lim Han Teo By Empire Singapore/Kuching on 2.10.59 (Amended). Returning from a course in the United Kingdom.

Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Seaton By air Singapore/Kuching on 7.10.59. (Also visited on Night ML 410 on 6.10.59) Returning from leave.

Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Mackie and children (Mr. Mackie is a newly appointed Mechanical Engineer, P.W.D.) By Rajah Brooke Singapore/Kuching on 11.10.59. On first appointment.

Thos & Mrs. Hall Vasey (Mr. Vasey is a newly appointed Mechanical Engineer, P.W.D.) By Rajah Brooke Singapore/Kuching on 11.10.59. On first appointment.

Dr. A. Mrs. Wong Soon Kai By air Singapore/Kuching/Sibu on 11th and 15th October, 1959. Returning from a course in the United Kingdom.

Mrs. E. G. Robinson and son By air Singapore/Sibu on 24.10.59. To join Mr. E. G. Robinson, Education Officer.

Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Southwell By air Singapore/Kuching on 28.10.59. Returning from leave.

Mr. & Mrs. G. A. DeChasse By air Singapore/Brunei on 31.10.59 (Amended). Returning from leave.

Mr. Ishari bin Ariff (Newly appointed Engineering Instructor, Technical School, Education Department) By Marudu Singapore/Kuching on 1.11.59.

Departures

Mr. E. Graham By air Kuching/Singapore on 2.10.59. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.

Mr. P. Radcliffe By air Kuching/Singapore on 4.10.59. Proceeding on leave to the United Kingdom.

Mr. & Mrs. C. G. P. Millington By Ansonby Kuching/Australia on 12.10.59. Proceeding on leave.

Miss M. P. D. Lynn By Ansonby Kuching/Singapore on 14.10.59. Proceeding to the United Kingdom.

Mr. H. P. K. Judo By Ansonby Kuching/Singapore on 24.10.59. Proceeding to Australia, on leave prior to retirement.

Mr. & Mrs. F. J. O'Connor and 2 children By Scheerhorst Muz/United Kingdom on 24.10.59. Proceeding on leave.

Mr. & Mrs. Haim Singh (Mrs. Haim Singh and 2 children) By Rajah Brooke Kuching/Singapore on 31.10.59. Proceeding to India.

Sarawak Turf Club Farewell Meeting, 1959

First Day—26th September, 1959

RACE 1. THE LARSEN HANDEMAF
Pondos Division IIB, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Mr. Ong Koo Hui's
Dandling Spring 8.11 | All I |
| 2. Brown Beauty 8.4 | Two One |
| 3. Tanjong Pagar 7.7 (7.30) | Sarawak |
| 4. Silver Star 8.1 | Master |

Also run—

Scratched: Western 7.8 (7.40) Ex Pak

Scratched: Primrose, Rose 7.8

Win by: Head, 2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 36 4/5 sec.

RACE 2. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division IIA, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Mr. Tan Teck Ann's
Cathart 8.8 (8.6) | Edible I |
| 2. Koi Pongong 8.9 (8.5) | All II |
| 3. Malaka Nam 7.7 (7.40) | Sign |
| 4. Adam Bay 8.17 | Joan |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: 1 length, 1 length, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 21 sec.

RACE 3. THE UOI AT HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Madam Yap Gook Hui's
Bachelor Boy 8.7 (8.4) | Two One |
| 2. Brown Hill 8.8 (8.1) | Edible I |
| 3. I Love You 7.8 | Mal II |
| 4. Hope 8.1 | Bobby |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: 1 length, Head, Neck.

Time: 1 min. 21 1/2 sec.

RACE 4. THE NIKER HANDEMAF
Pondos Division I, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. The Ong Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 (8.0) | Edible II |
| 2. Silver Eagle 7.10 | Edible I |
| 3. Three Jumps 8.3 | Edible II |
| 4. Concorde 8.4 | Mal II |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: 1 length, Head, Neck.

Time: 1 min. 21 1/2 sec.

RACE 5. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division I, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. The Ong Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 (8.0) | Edible II |
| 2. Silver Eagle 7.10 | Edible I |
| 3. Three Jumps 8.3 | Edible II |
| 4. Concorde 8.4 | Mal II |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: 1 length, Head, Neck.

Time: 1 min. 20 sec.

RACE 6. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division I, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Mr. Choo Khoo Loo's
Pink Boy 8.10 | Sarawak |
| 2. Tanjong Pagar 8.0 (8.0) | Master |
| 3. Cathart 8.5 | Two One |
| 4. New Green 8.5 (8.5) | L. Ashworth |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, Head.

Time: 1 min. 24 1/5 sec.

RACE 7. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division I, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Mr. Choo Khoo Loo's
Pink Boy 8.10 | Sarawak |
| 2. Tanjong Pagar 8.0 (8.0) | Master |
| 3. Cathart 8.5 | Two One |
| 4. New Green 8.5 (8.5) | L. Ashworth |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, Head.

Time: 1 min. 24 1/5 sec.

RACE 8. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Ong Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 (8.0) | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 7.10 | Edible II |
| 3. Three Jumps 8.3 | Edible II |
| 4. Concorde 8.4 | Mal II |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 2 lengths.

Time: 1 min. 24 4/5 sec.

RACE 9. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. IFT Nara's
Bright Sun 8.8 (8.0) | Koran |
| 2. West End 8.5 (8.5) | Edible I |
| 3. Wooden Box 8.8 (8.0) | Master |
| 4. Three Jumps 8.8 (8.4) | Lando |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: Head, 1 length, Distance.

Time: 1 min. 55 sec.

RACE 10. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Liting
Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 (8.0) | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 7.10 | Edible II |
| 3. Three Jumps 8.3 | Edible II |
| 4. Concorde 8.4 | Mal II |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: Head, 1 length, Distance.

Time: 1 min. 55 sec.

RACE 11. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Liting
Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 (8.0) | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 7.10 | Edible II |
| 3. Three Jumps 8.3 | Edible II |
| 4. Concorde 8.4 | Mal II |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: Head, 1 length, Distance.

Time: 1 min. 55 sec.

RACE 12. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Liting
Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 (8.0) | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 7.10 | Edible II |
| 3. Three Jumps 8.3 | Edible II |
| 4. Concorde 8.4 | Mal II |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: Head, 1 length, Distance.

Time: 1 min. 55 sec.

RACE 13. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Liting
Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 (8.0) | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 7.10 | Edible II |
| 3. Three Jumps 8.3 | Edible II |
| 4. Concorde 8.4 | Mal II |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: Head, 1 length, Distance.

Time: 1 min. 55 sec.

RACE 14. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 2 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Liting
Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 (8.0) | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 7.10 | Edible II |
| 3. Three Jumps 8.3 | Edible II |
| 4. Concorde 8.4 | Mal II |

Also run—

Scratched: Kowari 8.7, Hudson Bay 8.4

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 2 lengths.

Time: 1 min. 59 1/5 sec.

Second Day—3rd October, 1959

RACE 1. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division IIB, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Ong Koo Hui's
Tanjong Pagar 7.10 | Sarawak |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.1 | Master |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: 1 length, 1 length, Distance.

Time: 1 min. 59 sec.

RACE 2. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division IIA, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Ong Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.7 | Edible II |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: Distance, Neck.

Time: 1 min. 58 sec.

RACE 3. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division IIA, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Ong Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.7 | Edible II |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 58 sec.

RACE 4. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division IIA, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Ong Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.7 | Edible II |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 58 sec.

RACE 5. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. J. Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.7 | Edible II |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 58 sec.

RACE 6. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. J. Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.7 | Edible II |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 58 sec.

RACE 7. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. J. Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.7 | Edible II |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 58 sec.

RACE 8. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. J. Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.7 | Edible II |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 58 sec.

RACE 9. THE KATANA HANDEMAF
Pondos Division II, 4 Furlongs

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. J. Koo Hui's
Noble Nara 8.4 | Edible I |
| 2. Silver Eagle 8.7 | Edible II |
| 3. Cathart 8.1 | Edible I |
| 4. Phoenix 7.7 (7.5) | Edible II |

Win by: 1 length, 2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 58 sec.

RACE 5. THE MALAYAN BREWERY CUP Horse Division I. 1/4 Mile

1. Mr. Ong See Kong's
Bathaly Girl II 5.2 (5.8)
(5.8) Maiden
 2. New Green 10.8 (10.8) (9.8) Faint I
 3. Elitius 9.2 (9.8) (9.8) Ten Den
 4. Fresh Boy 4.8 (4.8) (4.8) Semadai
- Scratched: Kemeroh Ma II 4.0.
- Won by: 3 lengths, 2 1/2 lengths, Distance.
- Time: 2 mins. 20 secs.

RACE 7. THE POPULAR ENCLOSURE Horse Division IIB. 1 Mile

1. J.F.T. Stiller's
Bright Sun 8.8 Karim
2. Three Chins 8.0 (8.0) All Male
3. Caribbean 8.8 (8.7) Maiden
4. Lighthouse 8.2 Ma II

Also run—

- *Wall and Joe 8.2 (8.5) Maiden
Flasher 8.2 Liban

Scratched: Windsor Kid 8.1.

Won by: Distance, Distance, Distance.

Time: 1 min. 54 1/2 secs.

*Wall and Joe tripped.

*Flasher collared and was destroyed.

RACE 8. THE MARINE HANDECAP Horse Division IIB. 1 Mile

1. Mr. Wong Young Hwa's
My Darling 7.1 (7.18) Maiden
2. Sips Badoh 7.7 (7.8) Semadai
3. Rusty 8.4 (7.18) Baling II
4. Boy Valiant 8.2 (8.11) Faint I

Also run—

- Melton Sam 8.1 (7.18) Ngai
Kemping Star 8.1 Lady III
Azim Boy 8.11 Biddle I

Won by: 4 lengths, 5 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 2 mins. 26 1/2 secs.

RACE 9. THE GUERRE-BEACON Horse Division IIB. 1 Mile

1. Messrs. C. E. Sandbach and
Ong Koo Hwa's
Tanjong Hwa 7.11 (7.18) Semadai
2. Thunder Storm 8.1 (8.8) (8.8) Ex Pab
3. Sporting Gesture 7.8 (7.7) (7.7) Baling II
4. Hitting Kibong 9.8 (9.7) (9.8) All II

Also run—

- Hitting Ace 9.5 (9.4) (9.4) All Male
Cuburn 8.1 (8.2) (8.6) Ten Den
Broom Ball 8.1 (8.2) (8.4) Biddle I
Tongada 7.11 (7.18) (7.11) Karim

Scratched: Kemeroh 7.7.

Won by: 2 lengths, 2 1/2 lengths, 3 1/2 lengths.

Time: 2 mins. 15 1/2 secs.

RACE 10. THE HONG KONG Horse Division I. 1 Mile

1. Tongsan's Stiller's
Mangai 7.8 Semadai
 2. Kim Ma 8.1 (8.1) (8.1) Faint I
 3. Crocodile 7.11 Ma II
 4. Three Rivers 7.11 (8.1) All II
- Also run—
- North Sea 8.2 Lady III
Silver Eagle 8.4 (8.7) Biddle I
Broom Boy 8.8 (8.4) Ten Den
Lulu 7.7 All I

Won by: 1 length, 4 lengths, 4 lengths.

Time: 2 mins. 19 3/4 secs.

SPECIAL MEETING—18th October, 1959

Race 1. THE KEMEROH HANDECAP Horse Division IIB. 4 Furlongs

1. Mr. Ong See Kong's
Tanjong Po 8.8 Semadai
2. Tongsan's Vantage 8.8 (7.8) Baling II
3. Lady Boy 7.1 (8.11) Faint I
4. Phoenix 7.7 All I

Won by: 1 length, 4 lengths, 4 lengths.

Time: 1 min. 17 secs.

Race 2. THE DAY-CARROLL HANDECAP Horse Division IIB. 4 Furlongs

1. Mr. Tan Yock Ann's
Chabul 8.2 Lady I
2. Sips Badoh 9.5 (8.11) Lady II
3. Kemeroh 7.3 Biddle I
4. Boy Valiant 8.11 (8.11) Faint I

Also run—

- Melton Sam 7.7 (7.8) Ngai
Seri Pangang 8.2 (8.8) All II

Also run—

- Thunder Boy 8.7 (8.8) Maiden
Duchess's Striving 9.4 All I

Scratched: Mung's Badoh 8.2.

Won by: Neck, Neck, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 14 1/2 secs.

Race 3. THE LAY-GARDNER HANDECAP Horse Division IIB. 4 Furlongs

1. The Triple Kong's
Sporting Gesture 8.2 (8.2) Lady III
2. I. Low, Yee 7.10 Ma II
3. Broom Ball 8.11 Biding I
4. Regional 7.12 Ong Semadai

Also run—

- Hwa 8.2 Lady I
Low Kook 8.2 (8.8) Baling II
Kemping Star 7.7 (7.8) Baling II

Scratched: Baling Biding 8.8, Rusty 8.2, My Darling 7.11.

Won by: Head, 11 lengths, 11 lengths.

Time: 1 min. 10 1/2 secs.

Race 4. THE LOW STATE STAKES Horse Division I. 4 Furlongs

1. Mr. Wong Young Hwa's
Kim Ma 8.1 (7.18) (7.18) Ma II
2. Three Rivers 8.8 (8.8) (8.8) Lady III
3. Hitting Kibong 8.1 (7.18) (7.18) All II
4. Silver Eagle 8.2 (7.11) (7.11) Baling I

Also run—

- North Sea 9.4 (8.18) (8.18) Faint I
Crocodile 8.8 (7.8) (7.18) Walnut
Tanjong Hwa 8.8 (7.8) (7.8) Semadai
Hitting Ace 8.1 (8.2) (7.11) Maiden

*Broom Boy 7.12 (7.7) (7.7) Baling II

*Kok at the start.

Scratched: Mangai 7.7.

Won by: 2 lengths, 1 length, 1 length.

Time: 1 min. 20 3/4 secs.

RACE 1. THE DEWELLA HANDECAP Horse Division I. 3 Furlongs

1. Mr. Tan Poh Sang's
Elitius 7.8 Ten Den
2. Sips Badoh 8.8 Ex Pab
3. Kemeroh Ma II 8.8 Biddle I

Scratched: Paul Trial 8.2.

Won by: 11 lengths, 3 lengths.

Time: 1 min. 08 4/5 secs.

Race 4. THE LAYAN HANDECAP Horse Division IIB. 2 Furlongs

1. Mr. Ong See Kong's
Wunder 8.2 (8.1) Maiden
2. Best Main 8.8 All Male
3. Miss Raggi 8.8 (8.8) Karim
4. Caribbean 8.8 (8.8) Ma II

Won by: Neck, 4 lengths, 4 lengths.

Time: 1 min. 09 4/5 secs.

Race 7. THE CANTON SCOURY (Ten Horses) Cup

Horse Division IIB. Approx. 24 Furlongs

1. Mr. Ong See Kong's
Nancy Badoh 7.7 All I
2. Broom Boy 18.7 All Male
3. Int' Kook 8.8 Lady III
4. Lady Boy 7.7 (7.18) Walnut

Also run—

- Seri Pangang 7.7 (7.12) All II
Broom Beauty 7.7 (8.1) Ma III
Tanjong Po 7.7 (7.8) Semadai

*Lady Boy 9.8 Ten Den

*Kok at the start.

Scratched: Kemeroh 7.7.

Won by: 1 Head, Head, Neck.

Time: 13 1/2 mins.

Race 8. THE PINE STAKES Horse Division I. 1 Mile

1. Mrs. Janet Ong and
Mr. B. Henders
Hitting Kibong 8.7 All II
2. Hitting Ace 8.7 Maiden
3. Kim Ma 8.7
4. Three Rivers 8.7 Biding I

Also run—

- Silver Eagle 7.7 Biddle I
Thunder Storm 8.7 Ex Pab
Broom Boy 9.7 Ten Den
Mangai 8.7 All Male
Cuburn 8.7 (8.8) Du'an
Sporting Gesture 8.7 Lady III
Azim Boy 7.7 (7.8) Walnut
Rusty 7.7 Baling II
Sips Badoh 7.7 All I

Scratched: Crocodile 9.7, Regional 8.2,
Tanjong Hwa 8.2, Hwa 8.7.

Won by: Head, 1 length, 1 length.

Time: 2 mins. 31 1/2 secs.

Kuching Market Price List

November, 1959

RICE—(per gantang)	Average
Local White Government Milled	140
Local White Milled	137
Siam "A" 1%	140
Siam "B"	—
Siam "C"	—
Siam Broken Rice A1 Super	138
SUGAR—(per kati)	
White Sugar	11
Brown Sugar	48
Nipah Sugar	25
FLOUR/AND BREAD—	
Wheat Flour per kati	21
Bread per small loaf	21
Bread per large loaf	35
MILK—(per tin)	
(a) Nestle	41
Libby's Brand	41
Golden Brand	40
Milkmaid	41
Full Cream Fresh Milk per pint	40
EGGS—(each)	
Fresh	48
Dark, fresh	47
Dark, salted	45
Fresh	45
EDIBLE OILS—(per lb.)	
Sesame per lb.	100
Coconut Oil	71
Peanut Oil	100
Local No. 1	120
Local No. 2	100
Olives	200
Crushing	80
PORK—(per kati)	
Lean No. 1	140
Lean with Fat No. 1	120
Fat	80
Bone	140
BEEF—(per kati)	
Beef, fresh	100
Beef, Curry meat	140
Butt No. 1	100
Butt No. 2	140
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SARAWAK TURF CLUB

TOTAL

Race		Dividend	Race	Dividend
1. TANJONG PO		11.40	1. ELITEIRIS	1.40
2. CABARET		2.70	6. WONDER KID	2.30
3. SPORTING GENTLE		1.90	7. MONYA BALLEH	1.70
4. KING ME		2.30	8. BINTANG KILONG	2.20

1000 CASH PRIZES

Race 1.	1st No. 1711—4246.00, 2nd No. 1884—561.00, Starters: 1629—561.00.	2nd No. 1460—4125.00,	Race 4.	1st No. 1070—4294.00, 2nd No. 1781—4247.00, 3rd No. 1311—8211.00, Starters: 1719—8211.00.
Race 2.	1st No. 1794—4254.00, 2nd No. 1443—4177.00, 3rd No. 1491—408.00, Starters: 1012, 1004, 1143, 1074, 1159, 1354— 414.00 each.	Race 7.	1st No. 1096—4234.00, 2nd No. 1211—8211.00, 3rd No. 1071—4196.00, Starters: 1714, 1111, 1077, 1004, 1411, 1304— 417.00 each.	
Race 3.	1st No. 1400—4174.00, 2nd No. 1401—4142.00, 3rd No. 1415—4071.00, Starters: 2005, 2415, 2090, 1459, 2001, 1070, 2477—418.00 each.	Race 8.	1st No. 1120—4152.00, 2nd No. 1000—4176.00, 3rd No. 1776—4091.00, Starters: 1961, 1421, 1751, 1036, 2028, 1730, 1500, 1204, 1412, 1008, 1425, 1216, 1704, 2000— 414.00 each.	
Race 4.	1st No. 1001—4107.00, 2nd No. 1792—4191.00, 3rd No. 1420—4145.00, Starters: 1479, 2094, 1484, 1115, 1444, 1449, 1420—420.00 each.	Race 9.	THROUGH NUMBERS & ATTRACTION SALES 1st No. 1001—4175.00, 2nd No. 1417—4175.00, 3rd No. 1007—4115.00, Starters: 1790—410.00.	
Race 5.	1st No. 2707—4144.00, 2nd No. 1794—4171.00, 3rd No. 1201—4176.00, Starters: 2000—414.00.			

THE SPECIAL DERBY CASH PRIZE

Drawn on Race 8, Saturday, 18th October, 1939

TOTAL POOL 24,027.00

LESS:

30% Sarawak Turf Club	7208.10
2% Added Money	1207.83
	8744.93
	POOL PAYABLE 15,282.07

	Place	Prize No.	Price
FIRST	Bintang Kilong	14071	50,111.00
SECOND	Bintang Ara	24454	4,811.00
THIRD	Kin Ma	20411	3,677.00
Acceptors:	Mongah	12977	144.00
	Silver Eagle	10129	144.00
	Sarawak Bay	14000	144.00
	Crocodile	14531	144.00
	Three Rivers	11557	144.00
	Begawai	11500	144.00
	Calcutt	23406	144.00
	Tanjong Huan	11100	144.00
	Hio	12021	144.00
	Thunder Storm	17420	144.00
	Sporting Gentle	14728	144.00
	Alam Bay	17064	144.00
	Rudy	16793	144.00
	Saga Bedoh	14994	144.00

Drawing, 18th October, 1939.

HENRY ONG,

Secretary,
Sarawak Turf Club

The members of the winning tickets and the Total Dividends are only stated in the appropriate records of the Club. The above are published for information only and while every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy and number of dividend erroneously published herein shall not give rise to any claim against the Club.

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For Passage Bookings	"	2702
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Surveys Office	"	6

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Sarawak Gazette

PRICE

KUCHING, Saturday, October 31st, 1950

51.00

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

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

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

10.10.—10 cents to cover Bank Commission should be added on all cheques drawn on banks outside Sarawak.

NOVEMBER 1950

ENGLISH		CHINESE		MALAY		MOON PHASES		HIGH WATER	
Days of Week	Month	Months	Dates	Months	Dates	1st First Quarter 15th Full Moon	2nd Last Quarter 15th New Moon	A.M.	P.M.
S	1	10	1	Rabul	29	1st New Moon	15th Full Moon	04.44	5.38
M	2	11	2	Asad	1	1st New Moon	15th Full Moon	5.23	6.17
Tu	3	12	3		2			6.03	7.07
W	4	1	4		3			6.45	7.59
Th	5	2	5		4			7.31	8.33
F	6	3	6		5			8.23	9.26
S	7	4	7		6			9.22	10.02
S	8	5	8		7			10.26	—
M	9	6	9		8			11.34	—
Tu	10	7	10		9			1.17	1.23
W	11	8	11		10			2.13	2.33
Th	12	9	12		11			3.09	3.32
F	13	10	13		12			4.08	4.19
S	14	11	14		13			5.11	5.19
S	15	12	15		14			6.12	7.25
M	16	1	16		15			7.13	8.43
Tu	17	2	17		16			8.14	9.48
W	18	3	18		17			9.15	10.48
Th	19	4	19		18			10.16	11.47
F	20	5	20		19			11.17	—
S	21	6	21		20			12.18	12.07
S	22	7	22		21			1.19	1.27
M	23	8	23		22			2.20	2.37
Tu	24	9	24		23			3.21	3.36
W	25	10	25		24			4.22	4.29
Th	26	11	26		25			5.23	5.19
F	27	12	27		26			6.24	—
S	28	1	28		27			7.25	—
S	29	2	29		28			8.26	—
M	30	3	30		29			9.27	—
		4	31		30			10.28	—