

## **Annual report on Sarawak.**

### **Publication/Creation**

London : H.M.S.O., [1952]

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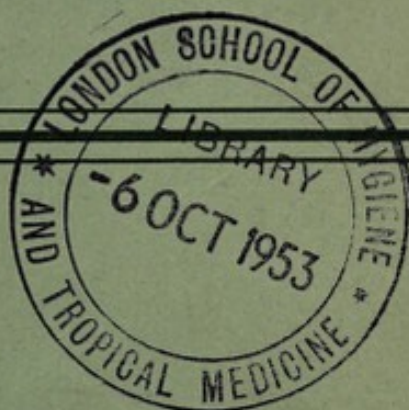
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*COLONIAL REPORTS*

# Sarawak

# 1952

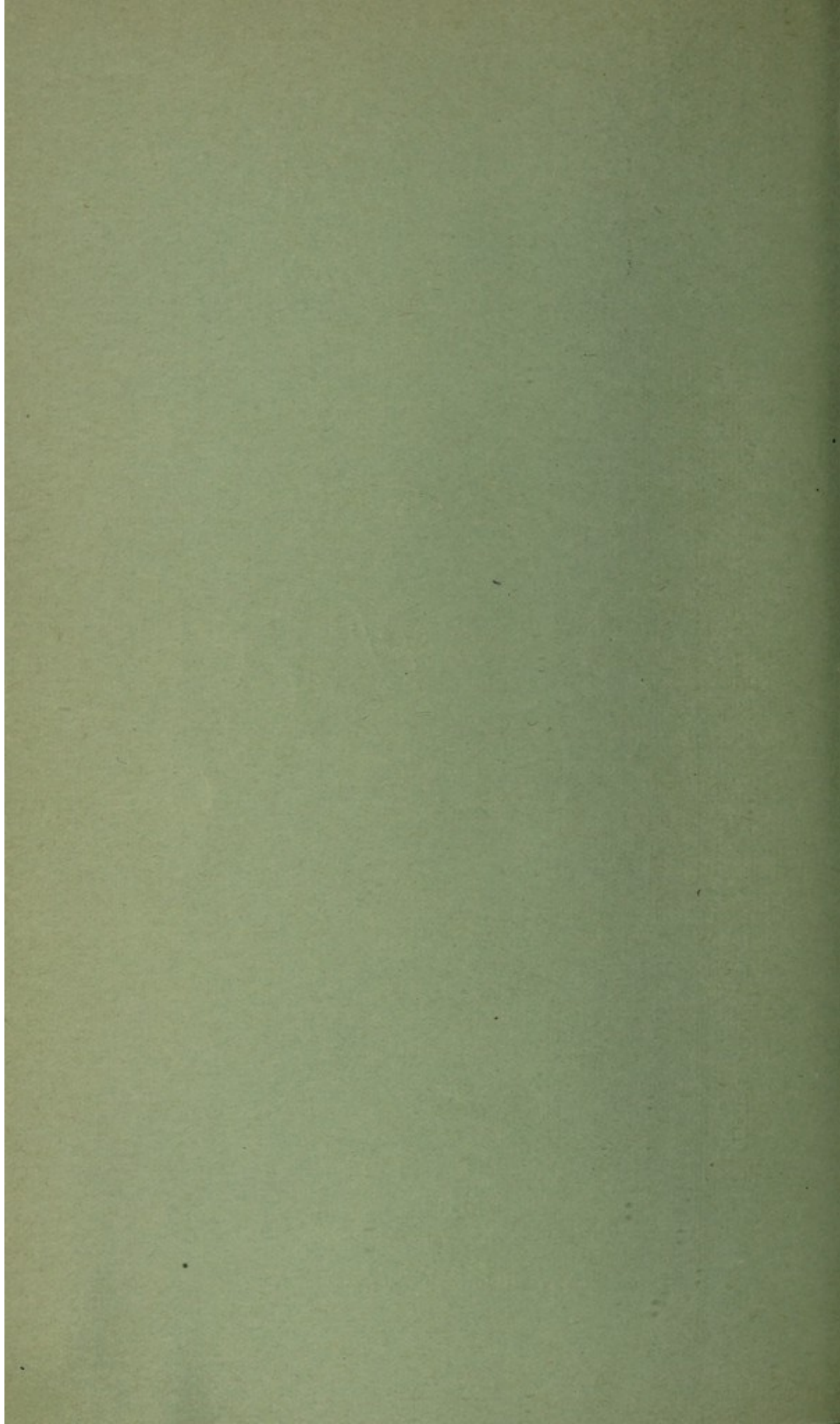
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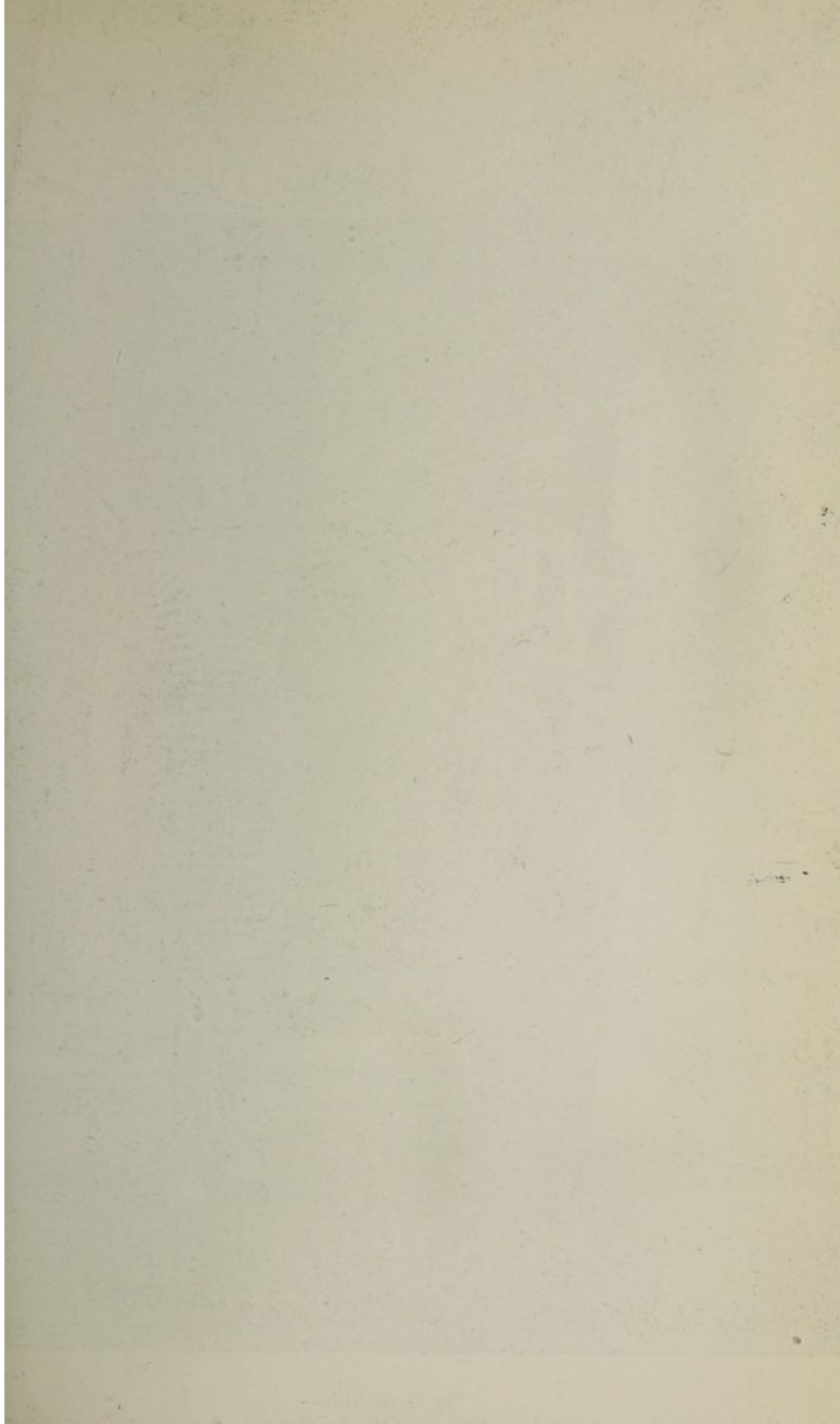


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1953

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Anna Ph

The Royal Visit —  
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell.



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**on**

# **SARAWAK**

**1952**

**PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
KUCHING, SARAWAK**

**W. J. CHATER GOVERNMENT PRINTER**

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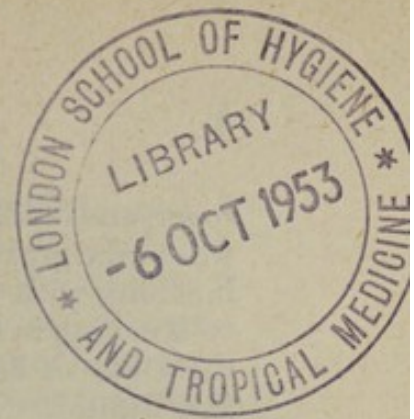
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## *Chapter I*

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### GENERAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

1952 was an eventful year in the history of Sarawak, unquestionably the most eventful since the Cession of the territory to the Crown.

In the early part of the year the sudden and tragic death of His Late Majesty King George VI evoked an expression of spontaneous and widespread grief throughout the territory, and members of all classes and communities were given an opportunity later of expressing their abiding loyalty to the Throne on the occasion of the Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, whose accession to the Throne was proclaimed at various ceremonies throughout the country; these ceremonies were the first of their kind ever to be held in Sarawak.

One of the last honours bestowed by His Late Majesty before his death was the conferment of knighthood upon His Excellency the Governor, an honour which was received with pride and satisfaction by people throughout Sarawak. His Excellency was absent from the country on furlough for five months in the middle of the year and during that period the Chief Secretary, Mr. R. G. Aikman, was Officer Administering the Government.

Probably the most important event of the year—at any rate to the citizens of Kuching and Sibu—was the visit in October of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by her son the Duke of Kent. This was the first visit of a member of the Royal family to Sarawak. Her Royal Highness arrived in Kuching on the 14th of October from Singapore and during her three days' stay she attended a reception at Astana, two official dinner parties, made a motor car tour of the town of Kuching, inspected a parade of voluntary organisations at Batu Lintang, inspected the Teachers' Training College, visited the General Hospital, laid the foundation stone of the new Anglican Cathedral and witnessed a display of native dancing in front of the east side of the Secretariat buildings. The Duchess spent most of Thursday, 16th October, at Sibu, flying to and from that town in the Sunderland flying boat which had brought her to Sarawak. At Sibu Her Royal Highness walked from the wharf to the Residency, the path being lined by Dayak men and women in traditional dress, and at the Residency some sixty members of all communities were presented to her. After the reception was over Her Royal Highness drove round the kampongs and the



town, and finally her tour terminated at the Lau King Howe Hospital where she graciously opened the new Out-Patient Department. After lunching with the Resident, Her Royal Highness and party returned to Kuching in the afternoon. In the meantime, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent spent the 15th and 16th on a trip to Satang Island and Buntal. The Duchess was welcomed both in Sibu and in Kuching with wholehearted and sincere demonstrations of affection and loyalty, and the drive through the brilliantly decorated streets of these towns was a most moving experience for all those who took part in it. In the words of His Excellency the Governor "Her Royal Highness left behind in Sarawak a gay and happy memory and a great example of unselfish public service which we will always remember and treasure".

Another distinguished visitor to Sarawak in this eventful year was His Grace the Archbishop of York, Dr. Cyril Garbett, who arrived in Kuching from North Borneo early in January. During his visit His Grace preached in St. Thomas's Cathedral, visited a Dayak longhouse at Merdang Gayam, and attended a reception given in his honour by H. E. the Governor. His visit was an undoubted success, and the dignity and kindly bearing of His Grace made a deep impression on all who met him.

One of the principal developments to which Government attaches the very greatest importance is the growth of Local Government throughout Sarawak. It is estimated that in 1952 there were some 240,000 people subject to the jurisdiction of Local Authorities, and that these Authorities managed and financed schools attended by more than 3,000 children. Furthermore, they contributed by way of grants-in-aid to schools run by Missions and other agencies some \$75,000 per annum. There are, at present, 17 Local Authorities throughout Sarawak, 13 of which are racial and 4 are mixed; these latter have jurisdiction over all races within their areas. The Mixed Local Authorities are the ones upon which the Local Government of the future will be patterned and it is the policy of Government to establish more and more of this type of Authority. The racial Authority has grave and lasting weaknesses and must be regarded as a temporary stage in the development of Local Government in Sarawak which will be replaced, as progress is made, by forms of Local Governments with jurisdiction over all the people of any particular area. All the Mixed Local Authorities were, by the end of 1952, doing well and it is hoped that the confidence felt in the ability of members of Councils to shoulder the full responsibility of Local Government will be fully justified.

His Excellency, in his address to the Council Negri in December, made proposals for constitutional reform in order to bring the present constitution into line with political progress which has already been achieved. It is proposed that the Council Negri should consist of official, unofficial and standing members. The official members



would be 17 in number, of whom 14 would be ex-officio and 3 appointed by the Governor. The unofficial members would be 15 in number; of these 8 would be selected by Divisional Councils, 3 by the more progressive Urban District Councils, 2 by bodies representative of particular interests—for instance, Chambers of Commerce—and 2 would be nominated by the Governor to represent important interests which are excluded from the arrangements already mentioned. The 9 standing members whose membership is assured by Section 9 of the Constitution Ordinance would, of course, retain their seats. The important point of these proposals is that the Divisional Advisory Councils will have the responsibility and privilege of selecting persons to represent them on the Council Negri. The proposals for the constitution of the Supreme Council were that there should be, firstly, 3 ex-officio members—namely, the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary; secondly, 3 members chosen from among themselves by the unofficial members of the Council Negri; thirdly, 2 members (who may or may not be official) appointed by the Governor. For the first time a direct obligation and responsibility would be laid upon the ordinary citizen of Sarawak to ensure that his chosen representatives are worthy of his confidence, and the constitution will provide a direct link between members of the smallest Local Authority through the Divisional Council to the Council Negri, and finally the Governor-in-Council. During 1953 it is expected that these proposals will be discussed throughout the country in all Local Authority and Advisory Councils, and in meetings in longhouses, kampongs and bazaars.

When the Estimates for 1952 were presented, a surplus of \$8,210,301 was anticipated, but largely as a result of the collection of arrears of Income Tax in 1952—which was \$12,455,000 more than the estimated amount—the actual surplus will now be in the region of \$19 million. This figure is based upon the Revenue for 1952 exceeding the original Estimate by approximately \$12,240,000 and the Expenditure being \$31,795,832 as compared with the original Estimate of \$31,308,204. It is estimated that the General Revenue Balance as at 31st December 1952 will amount to approximately \$60 million.

Gratifying though this final figure would appear to be, it is necessary to maintain a substantial reserve for bad years when the revenue falls short of expenditure, and this is particularly necessary when a revenue such as that of Sarawak is liable to considerable fluctuations owing to its dependence upon the price of rubber and the consequent yield from export duties. With the advice and consent of the Council Negri the Government is, in 1953, committed to large expenditure in order to expand its services to the public in almost every field of Government activity. Despite generous monetary assistance from H. M. Government in the United Kingdom, substantial funds have to be found from local revenue for this expenditure and it was, therefore,



found necessary to make substantial increases in customs duties on alcoholic liquors and tobacco, and to raise the rate of income-tax on companies. The former increases took effect from 17th November, 1952, and the latter will come into force on 1st January, 1953.

The aggregate value of the territory's external trade was \$820,000,000—\$75,000,000 down on the previous year, with an apparent trade balance of \$56,000,000. The large decrease in the trade balance, \$68,000,000, as compared with that of 1951 was due to the decline, in both volume and value, of rubber. It would have been reasonable to have expected this decline to have had a greater effect on the general prosperity of the country than it did, but, while rubber is still Sarawak's main industry, there are important secondary industries—sago, pepper and timber—which contributed greatly to maintaining a moderately high level of prosperity and resulted in a satisfactory trading year. The factors most responsible for the continued prosperity were pepper and timber. Timber is rapidly becoming an important item in the country's economy with exports for the year 80% over those of 1951. The Government's policy of encouraging interests in industries other than rubber has amply justified itself and has saved the territory from what might well have been a slump. Bazaar trade, while not as brisk as during 1951, was nevertheless profitable with perhaps the exception of the textiles business. Many small shops dealing mainly in textiles found themselves overstocked as a result of the boom of 1951, and towards the end of the year had to liquidate their stocks at greatly reduced prices and often below cost.

An interesting development in the introduction of light industries to Sarawak has been the establishing of a factory for the production of soaps, edible oils, fats and margarine.

Timber exports from Sarawak increased steadily during the year, reaching a record level of over 40,000 tons for the period July to September. The overseas timber markets have become more discriminating and the emphasis is now on quality rather than quantity. It is of interest to note that sawn timber is playing a more and more important part in the export trade. By the end of 1951 it represented only 27% of the total quantity exported; at the end of 1952 it was in excess of 40%. Our leading customer is the United Kingdom, with Hong Kong second, and "ramin" (*gonystylus bancanus*) at present the most popular export timber.

Up to the end of 1951 progress on the planned programme of development had been slower than had been hoped. Apart from the inevitable delays which must be encountered in the early stages of a development plan when projects must be investigated and schemes prepared, there has been a shortage of technical officers, labour and materials. In 1952 greater progress has been achieved



and by 1953 many schemes should be completed or nearing completion. An increasing number of technical officers have been appointed, equipment started to come forward and the labour position has eased. The difficulties have not all been overcome, but it is hoped that with the help of outside agencies some important capital works will be finished by the end of 1953.

Expenditure in 1952 will be considerably more than in 1951. This is accounted for in some instances by increased costs but the greater part is reflected in a larger programme undertaken during the year. An Appendix at page 158 of this Report shows the grants received from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and the amounts expended both from these grants and under schemes financed from local funds. The expenditure under the Development Plan may be summarised as follows:—

	<i>Actual Expenditure to 31.12.51</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditure in 1952</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditure in 1953</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Colonial Development & Welfare Schemes ...	4,334,673	2,774,588	3,065,518
Other Development Plan Schemes ...	383,349	2,359,164	18,089,335
Development Plan Loan Programme ...	238,827	199,860	1,117,400

In the Development Plan the estimated cost of Priority A Schemes was put at \$56,160,170 and the estimated revenue for development is \$59,540,000. This left approximately \$3,379,000 which was theoretically available for other Priorities or for excesses on the estimated cost of the schemes in Priority A. It was pointed out that it was not possible to estimate closely and accurately all the schemes in the Plan at the time when the Plan was presented to the Development Board. There are likely to be excesses on some of the schemes and savings on others, and the nett position as it is estimated today is an increase of approximately \$1,600,000 on the cost of Priority A.

Few new agricultural projects were started during the year and the Department of Agriculture entered on a phase of development and consolidation of existing projects. The Department continues to concentrate most of its efforts at selected development centres around which group farming projects are generally being developed. There is some degree of specialisation at some centres, but the aim is to demonstrate as many aspects of the Department's work as possible at all centres.

Due to the rubber boom the acreage of padi decreased during the 1951/52 season, but the fall in the price of rubber and increasing realisation of the serious position with regard to the country's rice



supplies caused a great deal of the lost ground to be made up in the 1952/53 season.

The recovery of the Sarawak pepper trade has been most impressive. The export of pepper in 1952 reached 4,000 tons and was almost up to the record year of 1934. Prices have been maintained at a higher figure than was expected.

Demonstrations and nurseries of various cash crops continue to develop steadily at the agricultural development centres with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. An effort is being made to develop animal husbandry. Selected Kelantan cattle have been introduced, also selected Red Sindhi dairy cattle. The Australian Government gave a pedigreed beef bull to the Government. The pure Middle White pigs and their crosses with local pigs continue to be successful and are already having an important effect on the local pig industry.

The development of farm mechanisation is progressing steadily. Progress is being achieved not so much with mechanical cultivation as with other aspects such as improved road and river farm transport, irrigation and water supply pumps, padi mills and sawmills. Experiments in the use of fertilisers continue and excellent responses are now being obtained on short term crops even on poor soils.

Progress has been made in the constitution of the permanent forest estate. During 1951 the area of demarcated forest was almost doubled and by the end of the year amounted to 6,400 square miles.

Progress can also be recorded in the improvement of communications. The Sibü airfield was completed and a scheduled service started on the 1st July 1952. Roads in the Kuching and Sibü districts have been reconstructed and work was proceeding on the main Bau to Kuching and the Kuching/Serian road. The survey of the new trunk road from Serian to Simanggang has been completed. A plan of port improvement for Sibü was drawn up and approved and work will commence in 1953.

Education services have expanded considerably during post-war years. The number of children in school in 1952 was 45,573 as compared with 42,000 in 1951. There has also been a satisfactory development of secondary education. A beginning was made with the teaching of science in secondary schools. A grant was approved from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to assist selected secondary schools with the capital expenditure required to build and equip science laboratories. A scheme for the award of overseas scholarships for degree and diploma courses is included in Sarawak's Development Plan, and paid for from local funds. Scholarships and fellowships have also been awarded under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, by the Australian and New Zealand Governments under their Technical Assistance Scheme, by the United Nations



Organisation and by the British Council. At the end of the year there were 30 Sarawak students studying overseas.

The travelling dispensaries of the Medical Department continued to operate, taking medical attention to remote areas. It is likely that, from experience gained, there may be modifications in the number and type of boats and engines to be used and of the areas to be served. During the year plans for a new and large Health Centre for the town of Kuching were completed and construction will start soon. The Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak provided funds for the building of a new Tuberculosis Clinic in Kuching. The World Health Organisation provided experts for a B. C. G. vaccination project and a malaria survey.

Sarawak participated in the Colombo Exhibition held in February, and this country's section formed part of the South East Asia Pavilion and attracted considerable interest. Notable features in the Sarawak section were the large relief map of the territories of Sarawak and Brunei, the large photograph of Dayak men and women, and the photograph showing the paucity of communications in the territory, whilst the brochure produced by the Natural Resources Board was considered to be first-rate. A most notable feature was the distribution of samples of Sarawak white pepper in small glass jars—a popular and unusual souvenir.

An event of great importance took place on the 23rd June when the new Oil Mining Lease between the Government of Sarawak and Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. was signed at Astana. The negotiations leading up to the signing of the new Lease have lasted for several years, and the principal features of the new Lease are that the Company has agreed to surrender 25% of the land area of Sarawak (all of which was covered by the old Indenture of the 19th March 1909) after 5 years, a further 25% after 10 years, and to reduce the area to 25% of the territory after 15 years. Royalty has been brought into line with modern practice by providing that the Company shall pay a percentage royalty basis on the value of the oil obtained; royalty on casing head spirit and natural gas sold has been introduced for the first time, and the minimum royalty has been raised to £10,000 per year. Under the terms of the new Lease the Company undertakes to spend £50,000 per year on exploration or oil mining operations whenever production is less than 40,000 tons per annum, and they have also agreed to accept liability for the recently introduced income tax on companies. The results of the negotiations, which were carried out in an atmosphere of co-operation and cordiality, have been to provide Sarawak with a modern form of Lease and very substantially increased revenue from the oil industry through increased royalty and the acceptance of income tax by Sarawak Oilfields Ltd.



It should be noted that the Company provides employment for nearly 2,000 persons, and by its activities in Sarawak contributes in no small manner to the economy of the country.

In August Sarawak had its first taste of banditry. On the night of the 5th and 6th August a detachment of Constabulary was carrying out an exercise in the 27th Mile area, investigating alleged threats of extortion by persons believed to be communists. On the same night at about midnight a small gang of individuals, including one woman, armed with automatic weapons, carried out a raid on the Batu Kitang Bazaar, firing shots, terrifying the inhabitants of the Bazaar, and extorting over \$4,000 from them. Early on the morning of the 6th an armed party, almost certainly the same as that which earlier carried out the raid at Batu Kitang, approached a police road block at the 27th Mile in a small motorcar. When ordered to stop by the police the individuals in the car suddenly opened fire, killing L/Cpl. Natu who was in charge of the small police detachment, wounding two constables, and then driving through the block. The police returned the fire and, although it is not certain whether any of the occupants of the car were wounded, the car itself was so damaged that it broke down and had to be abandoned farther down the road. There is little doubt, from the evidence available, that this gang—which was dressed in some sort of uniform and which had distributed communist inspired leaflets and used a five-star flag seal—was a unit of a subversive communist underground movement. Substantial rewards for the apprehension of the persons responsible for L/Cpl. Natu's murder were immediately offered by Government. The Officer Administering the Government, after consultation with the Supreme Council, promptly decided to declare a state of emergency in the First Division. This was announced on August 8th and thereafter various powers under the Emergency Regulations were taken by Government, and by a number of regulations made by the appropriate authorities under the Emergency Regulations, the Government took to itself powers which would enable it to deal more effectively with the situation.

Assistance from neighbouring British territories in South East Asia was speedy and generous. Items of equipment in which Sarawak was deficient were flown in by the R. A. F. from the Federation of Malaya and Singapore, and the North Borneo Government sent two platoons of police—also flown in by the R. A. F.—who did work of inestimable value in assisting the Sarawak Constabulary to keep up the patrols and activities which were necessary. These police returned to their own territory on 26th September when it was considered that the situation was well in hand.

Activities were not confined to the regular Constabulary alone and work of great value was done by Auxiliary Constables of all races some of whom spent long periods of great discomfort in patrol and other activities. The immediate results were that there was no



repetition of the original act of violence, and there can be no doubt that the gang—or gangs—concerned were forced by the extensive police activity in the Simanggang Road area either to leave that area—perhaps to leave Sarawak—but certainly to go underground and refrain from any illegal acts.

The morale of the people living in the area was rapidly restored and there was no evidence that the evil-doers had succeeded in dislocating the ordinary social and economic life of the people and to create the belief that the Sarawak Government was not able to give protection to its own people. The attitude of the bulk of the local population in the First Division was all that could be desired. The inconveniences arising from the application of the Emergency Regulations, some of which were relaxed before the end of the year, were endured without complaint; there was evidence that the action taken by Government received general support, and that there existed in the hearts of large numbers of individuals in the affected areas a strong desire to prevent any extension or expansion of the troubles which had already occurred and to assist any efforts intended to preserve peace and good order. The State of Emergency in the First Division was still in force at the end of the year.

In order to ensure that disturbances such as those already mentioned do not re-occur, and that if they do they can be dealt with speedily and effectively, it has been found necessary to strengthen the Police Force by way of expansion by approximately one-third and the creation within the Constabulary of a Field Force—a body which will be specially drawn up and equipped to deal with disturbances and the problems arising from militant political activities directed against the Government of Sarawak and its people. Plans were also made for the strengthening of that branch of the Constabulary which is concerned with the collection and assessment of information. Improvements in the conditions of service in the Constabulary by the introduction of new allowances and by a programme to provide for better housing and increased amenities for all branches of the Force, was decided upon.

The force of Sarawak Dayak trackers who have been at the disposal of the Government of the Federation of Malaya for the past 3½ years continued to operate in that territory during 1952, and towards the end of the year there were 301 Dayaks serving in the Federation; tribute has been paid by responsible authorities in that territory to the skill and courage of these Sarawak citizens. During 1953 it is likely that a more active role will be found for these men as a result of the experience gained by two experimental platoons operating as combat troops during the second half of 1952.

In July, for the first time in 20 years, an “Aum”—or assembly of Dayak chiefs—was held at Sibü. Residents, District Officers and Penghulus came from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Divisions, and the



meeting was formally opened by the Officer Administering the Government. The principal object of this impressive gathering was to consider the customary code of the Dayaks and a great deal of valuable work was accomplished. It is of interest to note that out of 63 Penghulus present only 7 were also present at the previous "Aum" in 1932.

As a result of long discussions between the representatives of Government and those of the two Staff Associations, Whitley Councils—representing the two main branches of the service—came into being during the year, and the establishment of these Councils is regarded as a step towards satisfactory relationships between the Government and its employees. Much useful work was accomplished by the Whitley Councils during the year.

A feature of the year in respect of the work of the Lands & Survey Department was the opening up of selected blocks of land in the 3rd Division—to the extent of some 25,000 acres—for new rubber planting by Chinese agriculturalists in the Lower Rejang and in the Batang Igan. This is in addition to the 29,000 acres in the Rejang Delta opened up to Chinese settlement in 1951. Whilst it is true to say that not all of this land is suitable for agriculture, it does contain some thousands of acres of good wet padi land. Government has, of course, been extremely careful to make the fullest investigation into native claims and requirements and to ensure that sufficient land remains for their use, after taking into consideration the need for forest and other reserves and also that adequate compensation can be assessed and paid.

Most of Sarawak and Brunei is extremely short of stone for road construction and road repairs, and the Geological Survey Department scored a resounding success by locating, at Sebuyau, a valuable deposit consisting of millions of tons of good quality granite readily accessible. A Quarry Engineer has been engaged with a view to the opening by Government of a large scale quarry at Sebuyau which will eventually supply granite to the whole of Sarawak, except the First Division, and it should also be possible for this quarry to produce sufficient stone to supply the requirements of the State of Brunei.

When one thinks of a quarry one immediately associates it with blasting operations, and the thought of blasting operations brings to mind the work of a contingent of Royal Engineers who were kindly made available to the Sarawak Government by the General Officer Commanding Singapore District, and who started work on the blasting of rocks in certain rapids in the Third Division. For many years representations have been made by up-river people that some of the more awkward rocks and boulders in rapids which they have to negotiate in order to get anywhere should be removed, but it has not hitherto been possible to find the necessary experts to do this on a reasonably large scale. The Royal Engineers party only worked for a very short time during the drier season of the year,



but it is evident from results already achieved that the work they are doing is of great value and is likely to render certain stretches of water less dangerous to lives and property than they have been in the past. Those people who live above the rapids are naturally extremely grateful to the Army for the assistance they have given in rendering the passage of these dangerous rapids less difficult for them.

During the year some progress was made in respect of the plans for the establishment of a Sarawak Broadcasting Service, and the Development Board—which sat in October—recommended that a modified scheme should be included in the Priority A group of projects in the Development Plan. A site has been selected and plans for buildings were reasonably well advanced by the end of the year. It is hoped to have a Pilot Service, which will only serve the town of Kuching itself and listeners within a radius of 15 miles, in operation by the end of June 1953 and the main Broadcasting Service is likely to come into operation in the first quarter of 1954.

Steady progress during the course of the year has been shown by the Co-operative Development Department and the number of Registered Societies has increased by twenty. One of the most interesting of these new societies is the Islam Meat Society in Kuching, and it is sad to think that this useful organisation may have to go into voluntary liquidation in 1953. It is good to know that the rural Foochow Chinese in the 3rd Division are showing a most welcome interest in co-operation. Other interesting developments include the Saribas Co-operative Hostel in Ban Hock Road in Kuching, the new Heng Hwa Chinese Fishing Settlement off the Pending Road, and the issue of an attractive and well prepared monthly magazine which first appeared in April and which is an excellent medium of co-operative education published in English, Malay and Sea Dayak.

Evidence of the growing importance of Sarawak in the eyes of the outside world was given by the elevation of the Head of the Roman Catholic Church in Sarawak from the status of Prefect Apostolic to that of Vicar Apostolic, and it was a source of great satisfaction to a great many Sarawak people when Mgr. John Vos was consecrated as the first Bishop of Kuching in the middle of the year.

The last quarter of the year was overshadowed by the loss this country sustained in the death of Sir Ivor Brace, the first Chief Justice of the Combined Judiciary of North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei. Sir Ivor's death came as a great shock to his many friends in those territories.

It should be noted that during 1952 a Sarawak man gave great assistance to Malaya in their Badminton victory in the Thomas Cup. Ong Poh Lim is a former pupil of St. Thomas's School, Kuching, and may now be regarded as one of the leading badminton players in the world.



It was remarked at the beginning of this review that 1952 was the most eventful year Sarawak had had since the country was ceded to the Crown, and the recital of events of the year justifies the truth of that remark.



## Chapter II

### POPULATION

A full-scale census was conducted during 1947. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 thereby disclosed was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminate tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayahs, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be a part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellow men."

The following table shows the numerical proportion of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census:—

<i>Cultural group</i>	<i>Population in 1947</i>	<i>Percentage of total population</i>
European ...	691	0.1%
Malay ...	97,469	17.9%
Melanau ...	35,560	6.5%
Sea Dayak ...	190,326	34.8%
Land Dayak ...	42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous ...	29,867	5.5%
Chinese ...	145,158	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous Asian ...	5,119	0.9%
	<hr/> 546,385 <hr/>	<hr/> 100.0% <hr/>

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogenous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language, yet it is distinctive and well-recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to



be "Gunong Sungkong" in West Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in West Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

The Melanaus are found in the coastal areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions, and are the principal cultivators of sago. At the present time they are intermediate between the Malays and the Pagan groups, in that some of them retain their Pagan customs and habits, while others have become Mohammedans.

The Kayans and Kenyahs live on the Baram River and the headwaters of the Rejang and Balui. They are thought to have come from the Batang Kayan across the Indonesian border.

Other indigenous races are the Muruts, Bisayas, Kelabits, nomadic Punans, Kedayans and Dusuns from North Borneo.

### *Immigration*

Control of immigration was tightened during 1952 by reducing to 12 years the age limit of alien children coming to Sarawak to join their parents who are Sarawak residents. Until October the age limit had been 14 years of age. The reduction to 12 years brings the practice in Sarawak into line with that in neighbouring British territories.

An additional Passport Examination Officer was engaged and is now stationed at Sibu as, during the year, Malayan Airways Ltd. began to operate their air services between Singapore and North Borneo by routing their aircraft through Sibu in addition to Kuching.

There was little or no trading by small craft between Indonesia and Sarawak during 1952. In 1951 there had been a very marked decrease in this trade over the previous year. Singapore vessels continued to call regularly at Kuching, Sarikei, Binatang, Sibu and Miri and, for the first time, a regular cargo service operated by two vessels began between Hong Kong and Sarawak, calling most frequently at ports in the Rejang River during the latter part of the year. Large vessels called regularly at Tanjong Mani in the Rejang,



mainly to load timber for export. As this place is not an authorised port of entry no passengers are allowed to land in Sarawak from vessels which anchor here.

In 1952 some commercial enterprises were started in Sarawak and it was found essential to allow the immigration of skilled technicians from Hong Kong to enable them to commence operations. The Matang Vegetable Oil Manufacturing Co., producing vegetable oils from raw materials secured locally, which is operating off the Pending Road, brought in a number of skilled technicians to operate the plant and manufacture oil. The establishment of the new newspaper *Sarawak Vanguard* also necessitated the immigration of some technicians from Hong Kong for a temporary stay. As local men are trained to do the jobs these visitors will be returned to their place of recruitment. A number of teachers also came in from Hong Kong to lessen the great shortage of qualified teachers in Chinese schools throughout Sarawak.

Immigration to and from Sarawak during 1952 was as follows :—

			Arrivals	Departures
Chinese	...	...	5069	4702
European	...	...	1649	1512
Malay	...	...	687	685
Melanaus	...	...	69	73
Sea Dayak	...	...	314	594
Land Dayak	...	...	—	—
Other Indigenous	...	...	25	24
Other Asian	...	...	590	497
Total :—			<u>8,403</u>	<u>8,087</u>



## *Chapter III*

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### OCCUPATION, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANISATION

The vast majority of the population continue to be engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers employing traditional methods of agriculture and engaged mainly in planting padi. Approximately 51% of the total population of Sarawak works at some gainful occupation and of these 45% of the workers are employed in some form of agriculture. Many have some other form of part time occupation such as the extraction of jungle produce, a little fishing and spasmodic rubber production. The Melanaus, a coastal people, are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing.

Agriculture also ranks first in the occupation of the Chinese; they are to a large extent pepper and rubber planters. There are 53 saw-mills now operating and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce arrack, matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli and a variety of other products. The retail trade of the country is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese, as is also a large proportion of the import and export trade, although an increasing number of European firms are active in this field.

The Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., and the British Malayan Petroleum Company, with headquarters at Seria, are the largest employers of labour in Sarawak and the State of Brunei. During 1952, there were on the average 6149 skilled and unskilled men in the labour force, including employees under contractors; of these 1585 were Chinese, 2573 Malays, 670 Indians, 1096 Dayaks and 225 others. Sago production, logging, dock work and distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment.

A very large proportion of the women of Sarawak do some form of work outside the house, and household duties among the interior people are reduced to elementary cooking and the care of the children.

With the general expansion of trade, the year has been a hard one for many industrial concerns because of the difficulty of obtaining labour. There has been a growing demand for skilled and unskilled labour in the timber and oil industrial undertakings and 16 skilled labourers were brought in from Burma for the former. Proposals to recruit labour from India and Hong Kong for the oilfields have



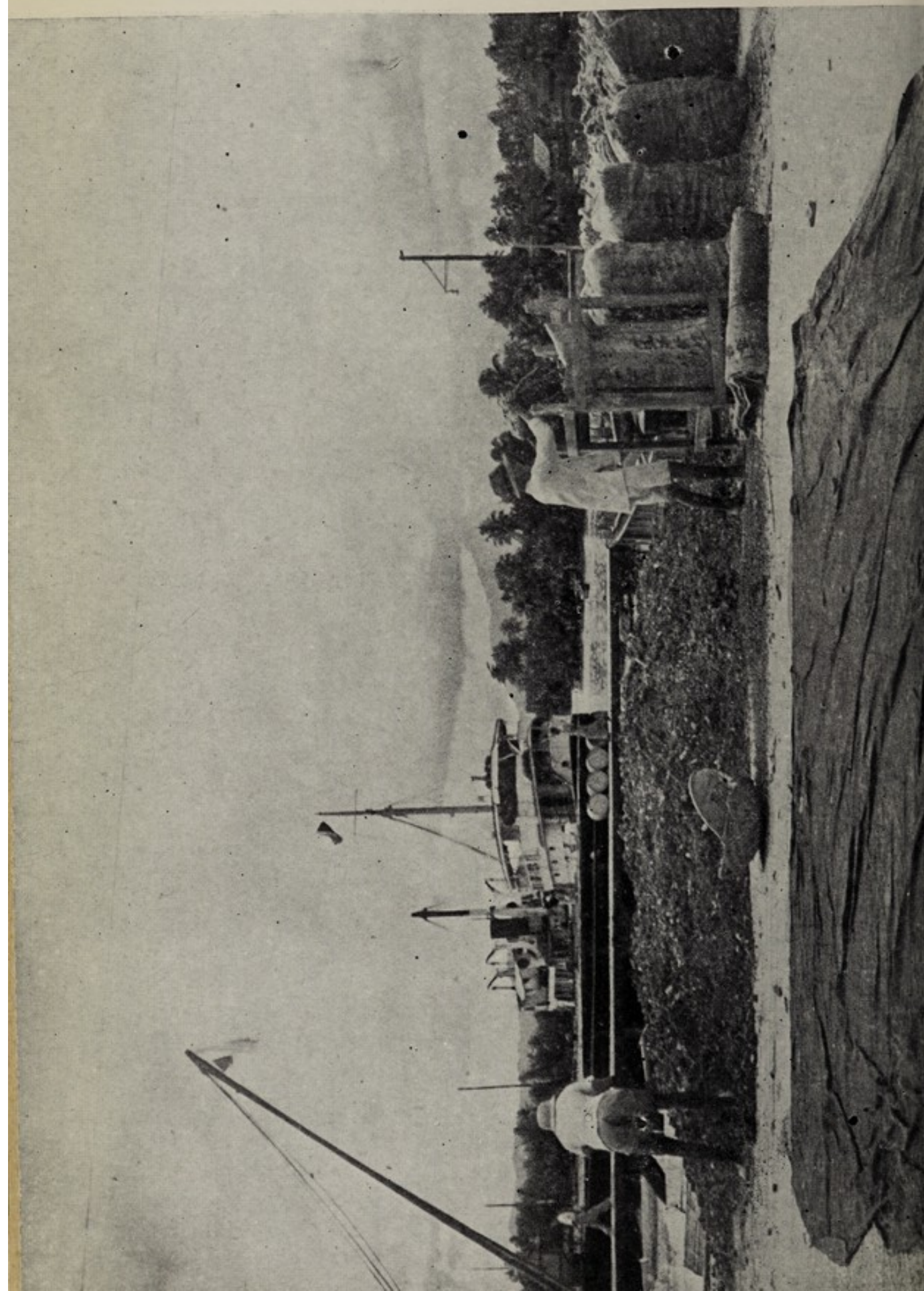
Fisheries—Melanau  
fishermen gathering  
up the 'anchau' or  
seine net on the  
Sarawak coast near  
Mukah



Jar'ee bin Denoh



For the Export Mar-  
ket—Damar being  
bagged on a Kuching  
wharf





been under consideration. With the exception of four European owned estates, there are no acute shortages of labour in the rubber industry, since it consists principally of small concerns often based on the family as a unit, where payment is on a profit sharing basis in good times, and where external labour is not employed at all in bad times. Wages of tappers engaged in European owned estates have increased, the reported rate at the end of the year (average earning) being \$3.42 per day. Wages in the sago industry decreased to \$2.73 a day. Basic rates in the oilfields remained at \$2.85, \$4.25 and \$5.80 a day for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour. The cost of living has risen 14% throughout the country during 1952.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is also the Protector of Labour, and District Officers are also Deputy Protectors of Labour.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Ordinance and the Labour Conventions Ordinance. The former provides protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice and agreements to labour, and permits inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for making complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work or task. The Ordinance was amended in 1950, to reduce the maximum working day from nine to eight hours and to empower the Protector to call for quarterly returns from employers.

The Labour Convention Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or of reporting on inspections nor will this be possible until staff can be recruited for this function, but District Officers regularly visit all important undertakings in their districts and take such action as appears appropriate. Detailed conditions affecting recruitment of labour for employment outside Sarawak have been drawn up for application by means of a licensing system in conformity with the principles of the relevant International Conventions.

The Labour Ordinance, 1951, came into force on 1st July, 1952.

The Weekly Holidays Ordinance, 1952 was enacted during the year, and will come into force on such date as the Governor may by notification in the Government Gazette appoint.

The Registration of Workmen Ordinance came into force on 1st August 1952.

The number of registered Trade Unions remained unchanged at eighteen. They are developing satisfactorily. The Officers of the Unions are in close touch with the Protector of Labour.

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance came into force on 1st April, 1950, and three agreements have been made under it.



## Chapter IV

### PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

#### *Revenue and Expenditure*

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1951 and 1952 are given below :

	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Surplus \$
Actual, 1951	47,349,364	22,517,206	24,832,158
Revised Estimates, 1952	51,764,769	31,795,832	19,968,937

The estimated General Revenue Balance at the end of 1952 was \$60,367,743.

#### REVENUE

The main heads of Revenue are as follows :

#### *Part I—Revenue*

Head of Revenue	Actual 1951 \$	Revised Estimate 1952 \$
<b>ORDINARY REVENUE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Customs ... ..	36,951,189	24,000,000
Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue	1,542,749	1,248,830
Fees of Court or Office, etc. ...	908,928	403,740
Departmental Services ... ..	581,364	494,720
Reimbursements ... ..	195,145	299,385
Land ... ..	527,418	464,675
Forests ... ..	486,733	800,000
Posts and Telegraphs ... ..	584,950	626,000
Marine ... ..	174,702	173,715
Municipal (Outstations) ... ..	464,078	179,665
Revenue from Government Property	236,459	739,450
Interest ... ..	1,021,001	2,018,490
Income Tax ... ..	233,819	18,855,000
Municipal (Kuching) ... ..	185,264	484,995
	[44,093,799]	[50,788,665]
<b>EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE</b>		
Land Sales ... ..	334,198	203,000
Loan Repayments ... ..	126,986	203,200
War Damage Compensation ...	1,444,381	569,904
Transfer of Sarawak Currency Fund Surplus (part) ... ..	1,350,000	—
	[3,255,565]	[976,104]
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>47,349,364</b>	<b>51,764,769</b>



*Part II—Revenue*

<i>Development, Welfare and Reconstruction Fund</i>	<i>Actual 1951</i>	<i>Revised Estimate 1952</i>
	\$	\$
Grants and Loans under Colonial Development and Welfare Acts ...	1,461,818	2,874,588
Contributions from accumulated surplus revenue balances for Development Plan Schemes ...	5,500,429	1,000,000
Transfer from Currency Fund Surplus (Part) ...	—	1,000,000
Contributions from annual revenue for Development Plan Schemes ...	400,000	400,000
Loans to be raised ...	—	—
By transfer of the Rajah Vyner Brooke Education Fund ...	428,571	—
TOTAL REVENUE EARMARKED FOR PLAN SCHEMES ...	[7,790,818]	[5,274,588]
Contributions from annual revenue for major capital expenditure ...	3,374,135	3,100,000
Contributions from accumulated surplus revenue balances for major expenditure ...	362,000	—
Revenue from sales, etc. ...	—	20,000
	[3,736,135]	[3,120,000]
TOTALS ...	<u>11,526,953</u>	<u>8,394,588</u>



## EXPENDITURE

The heads of Expenditure are as follows :

## Part I—Expenditure

Head of Expenditure				Actual 1951	Revised Estimate 1952
Governor	...	...	...	\$ 93,199.10	158,405
Rajah's Dependants	...	...	...	128,633.11	123,800
Administration, Divisional and District	...	...	...	1,752,762.58	2,107,453
Agriculture	...	...	...	514,920.69	647,169
Audit	...	...	...	69,631.57	92,379
Chinese Affairs, Immigration, Labour, etc.	...	...	...	99,991.00	175,600
Civil Aviation	...	...	...	65,324.32	186,129
Constabulary	...	...	...	1,756,879.21	2,449,330
Contributions to Development, Welfare and Reconstruction Fund	...	...	...	3,774,135.00	4,000,000
Co-operative Development	...	...	...	83,012.75	102,730
Defence and Internal Security	...	...	...	66,746.65	200,000
Education	...	...	...	564,752.32	750,659
Forests	...	...	...	248,287.99	275,858
Judicial	...	...	...	153,470.84	215,260
Kuching Boys' Home	...	...	...	18,608.40	29,835
Land and Survey	...	...	...	901,303.35	1,260,907
Legal	...	...	...	46,652.74	53,756
Local Authorities	...	...	...	276,424.50	411,020
Marine	...	...	...	510,645.78	893,124
Medical	...	...	...	2,064,975.40	2,930,395
Miscellaneous Services	...	...	...	1,069,451.09	665,903
Kuching Municipality	...	...	...	410,046.35	952,955
Municipal, First Division (Bau)	...	...	...	8,710.35	17,695
Municipal, Third Division (Sarikei and Binatang)	...	...	...	132,380.96	75,015
Municipal, Fourth Division (Miri)	...	...	...	69,433.19	112,671
Museum	...	...	...	61,065.35	47,064
Pensions and Gratuities	...	...	...	927,592.84	1,154,050
Posts and Telegraphs	...	...	...	690,869.33	894,994
Printing	...	...	...	355,059.36	396,563
Prisons	...	...	...	246,400.96	303,600
Public Works Department	...	...	...	879,237.29	947,758
Public Works Recurrent	...	...	...	674,106.99	851,960
Public Works Non-recurrent	...	...	...	1,030,086.04	2,095,287
Registration of Births and Deaths	...	...	...	3,572.32	28,839
Secretariat	...	...	...	370,142.31	594,052
Trade and Customs	...	...	...	598,651.94	661,413
Treasury	...	...	...	274,610.47	377,133
War Damage Claims Commission	...	...	...	1,476,237.44	4,555,071
Survey of Ships	...	...	...	3,600.80	—
Loss on Sales of Investments	...	...	...	45,594.06	—
TOTAL				\$22,517,206.74	31,795,832



*Part II—Expenditure*

<i>Head of Expenditure</i>		<i>Auctal 1951</i>	<i>Revised Estimate 1952</i>
Class I	Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	4,334,673	2,774,588
Class II	Other Development Plan Schemes ...	383,349	2,359,164
Class III	Development Plan Loan Programme ...	238,827	199,860
Class IV	Other Development and Reconstruction Major Works and Services ...	3,388,664	4,076,592
Total ...		8,345,513	9,410,204

*Public Debt*

Sarawak has no public debt



*Assets and Liabilities*STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT  
31st DECEMBER, 1952

## LIABILITIES

*Previous year*

\$				\$
1,616,476.06	Deposits	...	...	2,445,988.16
6,210,959.81	Special Funds	...	...	14,561,752.36
737,337.04	Current Accounts	...	...	887,000.43
1,523,940.17	Trading Account—Food Control	...	...	—
7,772.54	Allotments	...	...	3,431.25
24,247,662.24	General Revenue Balance	...	...	41,398,805.07
<hr/>				<hr/>
34,344,147.86				59,296,977.27
<hr/>				<hr/>

## ASSETS

*Previous year*

\$				\$
3,747,847.70	Cash	...	...	3,529,794.39
917,509.37	Fixed Deposit with Chartered Bank, Kuching	...	...	1,216,600.89
13,002,857.14	Joint Colonial Fund	...	...	22,285,714.29
13,484,397.14	Investments at Market Value	...	...	26,711,063.36
643,439.83	Investments, Special Funds, at Mar- ket Value	...	...	722,293.20
—	Trading Account—Food Control	...	...	1,422,517.04
667,887.48	Advances	...	...	1,220,913.55
30.00	Imprests	...	...	—
1,011,416.55	Current Accounts	...	...	1,569,602.91
232,106.52	Drafts and Remittances	...	...	316,677.20
582,939.73	Remittances between Chests	...	...	221,352.71
53,716.40	Suspense	...	...	80,447.73
<hr/>				<hr/>
34,344,147.86				59,296,977.27
<hr/>				<hr/>



### *Customs Tariff*

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely—Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, salt, tea, soap, textiles, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber, furniture, soap, cosmetics and perfumery; and Export Duties on rubber, sago, pepper, jelutong, illipe nuts, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted) and birds' nests.

The Import Duties on liquor, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco were increased on 17th November, 1952 (see Chapter VI page 32 )

### EXCISE, STAMP DUTIES AND OTHER TAXES

#### *Excise Duty*

An Excise duty is levied on local manufactures of arrack, certain wines and matches.

#### *Stamp Duty*

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17), and include a stamp duty on Bills of Exchange, Bank Cheques, Affidavits, Agreements, Contracts, Declarations of Trust and Instruments creating an Annuity.

#### *Income Tax*

Income Tax is at present charged, levied and collected only in respect of the incomes of companies incorporated or registered under any law or charter in force in Sarawak or elsewhere. In 1952 such tax was levied at the rate of twenty per centum on every dollar of the chargeable income of the company for the year of assessment, but with effect from 1st January, 1953, this rate will be increased to thirty per centum.

#### *Trade Licence Fees*

The Trades Licences Ordinance is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and is designed to extend a simple form of direct taxation, by way of trades licence fee, to certain sections of the community. The fees are to be paid by the different categories of businesses and vary considerably according to the nature of the business. They range from \$2,500 for a licence to carry on the business of a banker, to \$50 for a licence to carry on the business of a retail trader not engaged in any import trade. Lesser fees are levied in rural areas.

#### *Head and Door Tax*

The system of Malay and Dayak Head and Door Tax current during the rule of the Rajahs of Sarawak has been continued. In areas where Local Treasuries have been instituted the tax collected is paid over, in full, to the Local Authority. The "door" tax is



equivalent to what is called "hut" tax in some territories, the "door" being the apartment in a Dayak long house occupied by a single family. The annual revenue from these combined taxes is approximately \$75,000.

### *Entertainment Tax*

A tax is charged on all payments for admission to any entertainment.

### *Estate Duty*

Estate Duty is charged upon all estates the value of which exceeds \$1,000 and the rates now in force are as follows:—

where the value of the estate exceeds :

\$ 1,000 but does not exceed \$	3,000	...	1	per cent
3,000	"	5,000	...	1½ "
5,000	"	7,500	...	2½ "
7,500	"	10,000	...	3½ "
10,000	"	20,000	...	5 "
20,000	"	40,000	...	7½ "
40,000	"	70,000	...	10 "
70,000	"	100,000	...	15 "
over 100,000			...	20 "



# Chapter V

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## CURRENCY AND BANKING

### *Currency*

Since 1945 Malayan currency only has been issued in Sarawak. No new issue of Sarawak currency is intended. Until 31st December, 1952, the following currencies were legal tender in Sarawak :

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

By virtue of the Currency Ordinance, 1951, Sarawak and British North Borneo (Chartered Company) notes and coins are being withdrawn from circulation and ceased to be legal tender after 31st December, 1952. With effect from 1st January, 1953, the only notes and coins which will be legal tender in Sarawak will be those which are issued by the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Malaya and British Borneo.

At the 31st December, 1952, there was \$31,760,956 of Malayan currency in circulation and \$816,901 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$313,984 in notes and \$502,917 in coins. There was a decrease of \$6,950,000 Malayan currency in circulation during the year. \$781,141 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$647,460 in notes and \$133,681 in coins, was withdrawn during the same period.

### *Banking*

Banking facilities are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, in Kuching, Sibü and Miri and the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation in Kuching. In addition, there are four small Chinese Trading Banks in Sarawak: the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank, the Wah Tat Bank and the Hock Hua Bank.



## Chapter VI

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### COMMERCE

The pattern of commerce in the country in 1952 was not markedly different from that in previous years. Generally speaking, the commerce of the country is conducted by:

- (i) the agency houses, the numbers of which are small but increasing and
- (ii) the Chinese merchants, of which there are many.

*The Agency Houses:* The most important are the leading European companies, but there are also Chinese firms holding valuable agencies. These houses import either from Great Britain, Singapore, or from other countries, proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. They hold a number of such important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases they undertake more the functions of a branch office of their principals (the marketing organisations of the great combines). In addition to the sale of goods these firms conduct insurance and other business, and engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese merchants. They also act as agents and secretaries for the few large rubber estates that exist and carry on other activities which come, more properly, under the heading of "production" e. g., in the timber business.

*The Chinese Merchants:* The merchants may be said to engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Not all of the firms trading under Chinese names are composed solely of Chinese members, though this is generally so. There are a number of Indian merchants trading almost exclusively in textiles.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the country direct from Great Britain, Australia or other sources, i. e., upon a through bill of lading (and even this would normally necessitate transshipment in Singapore). Most of the commodities imported are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots. Similarly most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export. Shipments of sago and rubber to other countries however are frequent, and most of the territory's



exports of oil and timber are shipped to places further away than Malaya; Hong Kong and Great Britain having now replaced Australia as the major immediate destinations of the latter commodity.

The import of goods from Great Britain and other distant places is left almost entirely to the few European firms, but speaking generally the whole trade of the country passes, at one stage or other, through the Chinese merchants, who carry on what might be described as a "small shop" trade. In the larger towns and bazaars there are shops engaged solely in the sale of goods for cash (or more often on credit—the system in almost universal use throughout the country), but many are to be found that combine the purchase of rubber and other produce with the sale of sundry goods and Chinese groceries, if so ordinary a term can be given to the great variety of oriental foodstuffs they display: sharks' fins, birds' nests, salted squids, prawn paste and dried fish vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved. Often the small bazaar shop keeps stocks of every commodity its customers could possibly need, a system well suited to the practice of "tying" customers to the shop by extensive credit, and frequently resulting in there being several shops side by side all offering for sale a virtually similar display. Often, too, in the up-country bazaars the Chinese merchant must provide lodging in his shophouse for his Dayak and other customers: he is their host, their banker, and their universal supplier.

The more important shops in the towns are usually linked with associated firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the firms in Sarawak have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars. These they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber, pepper, and jungle produce obtained by sale or barter. This jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas, of which jelutong is employed in the manufacture of chewing gum, and such piquant items as dragon's blood and ant-eater skins which are more interesting than important. It is not unlikely that the handles of the cricket bats used by, for example, the great Sir Donald Bradman are made of rattan cane imported into Australia from Sarawak.

Most of this jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives which they cannot and do not provide for themselves are very few; but the up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of the local people, who may set their hearts on any object outside their natural partiality for gold and silver ornament. The other things they venerate vary with local tribal custom, and amongst these is a certain type of earthenware jar, large, glazed and urnlike in appearance, and brass gongs. Shot-guns and outboard motors are universally esteemed, both for their utility and the prestige they bring.



Very little weaving is now done locally, so that imported cloth has become almost a necessity. Apart from this, in some places far from the towns very little more than oils and salt for lighting and cooking are really needed by the natives except when the local padi harvest fails, or is short, but it is interesting to note how great a variety of goods is normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar: so wide are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

Some Chinese firms carry on an extensive business in the purchase of pepper and sago flour for export, and these are in the nature of specialized trades. The Department of Trade and Customs grades pepper and sago for export and ascertains the moisture content.

Pepper production was on the decline before the Japanese invasion, because of the great element of speculation as to the price the crop would fetch. During the Japanese occupation pepper was abandoned altogether, but in the past Chinese merchants have financed the pepper gardeners by a system of "grub-staking", and they are again doing so now. Even the Dayaks in some areas are now growing pepper, being quick to realise the economic advantages in comparison with rubber.

### *External Trade*

The aggregate value of the external trade of the country for the year 1952 was \$821,509,270 as compared with \$892,094,893 for the year 1951, and \$78,415,599 for 1940, the last full year before the Japanese occupation.

This total is made up as follows :

	1952
Exports ... ..	\$438,563,317
Imports ... ..	382,945,953
	<hr/>
Favourable Trade Balance ...	\$ 55,617,364
	<hr/> <hr/>

### *Trade Balance*

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$55,617,364 does not, however, show a very clear picture in view of the fact that in the total exports of \$438,563,317 exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$307,060,951.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports in 1952 being \$270,684,254. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak (now only a comparatively small quantity) is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleums are included in the total value of exports.



Disregarding the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the State of Brunei and in Sarawak itself, the favourable trade balance for 1952 would be \$19,240,667. This compares with \$84,230,914 for 1951, and is made up as follows :

Exports ... ..	\$131,502,366
Imports ... ..	112,261,699
	<hr/>
	\$ 19,240,667

While the figure of \$55,617,364 can be regarded as an overstatement of the true trade balance, so also may \$19,240,667 be regarded as too modest, in that it does not take into account such production of oil as there was in Sarawak.

The large decrease in the trade balance, \$68,986,615, as compared with that of 1951 was due to the decline in both the volume and value of rubber exported. It would have been reasonable to have expected this decline to have had a greater adverse effect on the general prosperity of the territory than it did, but, while rubber is still the main industry, the secondary industries, sago, pepper and timber which the Government has encouraged over the last few years, contributed greatly to maintaining a moderately high level of prosperity and saved the country from what might well have been a slump.

#### Imports

The declared value of imports for 1952 was \$382,945,953 made up as follows :

		as compared with	
	1952	1951	1940
Foodstuffs ...	\$ 48,182,330	\$ 51,513,562	\$ 9,770,805
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc. ...	6,246,300	13,933,150	2,796,708
Petroleum, crude and refined ...	275,391,485	267,067,229	8,844,626
Tobacco ... ..	6,549,444	9,654,841	2,556,131
Manufactured goods and sundries ...	46,576,394	41,576,675	8,850,609
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$382,945,953	\$383,745,457	\$32,818,879

It is remarkable that with such a large decrease in the values of exports the level of imports should have remained so high, and points to a high standard of living throughout the year.

Bazaar trade while not as brisk as during 1951 was nevertheless profitable with perhaps the exception of the textile business. This branch of business suffered indirectly from the virtual closing of the



Indonesian and Thailand markets to the Singapore entrepot trade. Singapore textile merchants, with large stocks on their hands which would normally have gone to the Indonesian and Thailand markets, diverted quantities of textiles, on a consignment basis, to Sarawak. Local merchants, already well stocked as a result of over-buying during the 1950—1951 boom, soon found themselves over-stocked, and towards the end of the year had to liquidate stocks at greatly reduced prices and often below cost.

The cost of certain basic foodstuffs, sugar and salt, showed a reduction compared with that in 1951, while rice, flour and milk again increased. The respective declared values were:

		1952		1951	
Rice	...	\$ 561.71	per ton	\$ 415.65	per ton
Flour	...	469.56	" "	408.77	" "
Sugar	...	585.25	" "	671.46	" "
Salt	...	60.90	" "	73.94	" "
Milk	...	1,545.60	" "	1,500.91	" "
The 1952 value of Rice was 5.88 times that of 1940.					
"	"	"	"	Flour	" 3.93
"	"	"	"	Sugar	" 3.59
"	"	"	"	Salt	" 1.25
"	"	"	"	Milk	" 3.14

Decreases in the quantities imported in 1952 as compared with 1951 occurred in cigarettes, brandy, gin, still wines, beer, bicycles, sporting guns, outboard motors, sewing machines and cosmetics, indicating the end of the period of carefree spending.

### Exports

The f. o. b. value of exports for 1952, \$438,563,317, was made up as under:

		1952	as compared with	
			1951	1940
Petroleum, crude and refined	...	\$307,060,951	\$303,186,679	\$11,446,818
Rubber	...	65,182,029	158,865,402	26,167,140
Sago flour	...	5,954,774	7,988,232	2,184,997
Pepper	...	33,031,835	17,925,184	362,569
Jelutong	...	2,107,951	2,310,331	775,209
Various guttas	...	236,785	160,662	145,930
Damar	...	738,564	613,829	88,688
Copra	...	1,106,541	2,654,196	70,629
Timber, sawn and logs	...	8,925,910	4,727,834	89,840
Sundries	...	14,217,977	9,917,087	4,438,587
		<u>\$438,563,317</u>	<u>\$508,349,436</u>	<u>\$45,770,407</u>



Exports of rubber amounted to 31,471 tons in 1952 compared with 42,521 in 1951. The drop in quantity was due mainly to the lower ruling price of rubber during the year; many producers found it uneconomical to continue tapping at the high rate of the previous years. Although by far the largest proportion of these exports was, as in previous years, shipped with Singapore as the only declared destination, the quantity shipped on through bills of lading to the United Kingdom was double that of 1951, and exports to other European countries were maintained.

Exports of sago flour fell only slightly short of 1951, the total quantity being 22,620 tons of which 18,000 tons went to the Great Britain and 4,000 tons to Holland, the latter, it is believed, for further processing and then onward shipment to Great Britain. The standard of quality was maintained at a satisfactory level.

Timber is rapidly becoming an important item in the economy of Sarawak with the export for the year, 98,309 tons, 80% above that of 1951. 40,856 tons went to Hong Kong, 35,773 to Great Britain and 9,110 to Australia.

The rapid recovery of the pepper industry since the war has been remarkable. The total exports for the year, 4,012 tons, are only a little short of the peak year, 1934. A new feature of the Sarawak pepper industry has been the production of a heavy type of black pepper. This was brought about by the narrow price margin between white pepper and this type of black. Producers, especially those who were not fortunate enough to have the facilities to produce a high quality of white pepper, found it more to their advantage to produce black pepper. Fifty per cent of the total pepper exported during the year was black; in previous years it used to be about ten per cent.

As compared with 1951, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 4,947,598 tons to 4,951,942 tons. It is not possible, for the reason explained above under the heading "trade balance", to assess the true value of these exports to the country's economy. Crude oil won in Sarawak amounted to 49,944 long tons as against 51,708 long tons in 1951.

### *General*

With the development of the timber trade, particularly in the Rejang River area, the use of Tanjong Mani near the mouth of the Rejang River as a loading point has further increased. 49 vessels called there during the year as compared with 33 during 1951.

During 1952 the first regular steamship service began between Hong Kong and Sarawak ports. Notable imports by this route were sugar, stone and sundries. Exports were mainly timber from the Rejang.



### Customs Revenue

The total customs revenue for 1952 amounted to \$23,205,400 made up as follows :

		as compared with	
	1952	1951	1940
Export duties ...	\$12,813,569	\$23,128,777	\$1,278,254
Import duties ...	10,391,831	12,338,783	2,252,028
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$23,205,400	\$35,467,560	\$3,530,282
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The very large drop in customs revenue was due to the decrease in the quantity and value of rubber exported during the year. The duty from this source collected during 1952 was \$7,677,544 as compared with \$19,405,195 in 1951. The export duty on rubber is on a sliding *ad valorem* scale.

### Tariffs

The only alteration to the customs tariffs during the year was made in November when the import tariff rates on intoxicating liquors and tobacco were increased by 20% and 25% respectively. The import duty on the native-type tobaccos smoked by the poorer classes of the community was not increased.

### Excise

There was little change from the previous year in the excise position, the sources of this revenue still being the same three distilleries and the match factory. Collections were, however, very disappointing and excise revenue dropped from \$841,958 in 1951 to \$606,605 in 1952. One reason for this seems to have been the over-production of each distillery as it first came into operation and the consequent flooding of the market but it may also be that illicit distilling has been on the increase. That a very great deal of illicit distilling goes on has been amply proved during the last year. Information is continually received of such stills and in almost every case the information has led to the discovery of a still and its consequent destruction. But, though everything possible has been done with the staff at the disposal of the Department, it seems clear that illicit distilling continues unabated all over the country, causing a great loss of revenue.

Work at the distilleries continues on the same lines as in the previous year and the system has proved very satisfactory. A large number of junior customs officers have now had experience of this work which they perform very satisfactorily.



Commerce — two  
youngsters examine  
the variegated con-  
tents of a Sibu shop





Commerce—the Bor-  
neo Company domain  
at Kuching seen from  
T. S. M. V. *Rajah*  
*Brooke*





*Staff*

It is still, unfortunately, impossible to fill the vacancies in the out-door staff with men of the required educational standard. It is quite clear that the terms of service offered to customs officers are not sufficiently remunerative to attract intelligent young men and the great majority of applications have been from older men of inadequate education who were mostly quite unsuitable.

This shortage of out-door staff has therefore continued to be one of our principal difficulties. This is especially noticeable in the Third Division where Tanjong Mani, the distillery and the airport lay an additional strain on the meagre resources of the Department. The position is further complicated by lack of accommodation which makes it impossible to transfer adequate numbers of officers from Kuching to the outstations.

The staff at the end of the year consisted of the Commissioner (who is also Controller of Excise), 6 Superintendents, 3 Assistant Superintendents, 1 Accountant, 26 Clerks, 4 Office Boys, 1 Chief Supervisor, 7 Supervisors, 161 Customs Officers, 11 Non-Establishment Female Clerks, 7 Tobacco Sealers, and 2 Female Searchers.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

		1952	1951	1940
Exports	...	\$438,563,317	\$508,349,436	\$45,770,407
Imports	...	382,945,953	383,745,457	32,645,192
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$821,509,270	\$892,094,893	\$78,415,599
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



## DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

	1952		1951	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Beans and peas ...	tons	\$ 672,465	1,192	\$ 669,846
Biscuits ...	"	1,497,422	1,322	1,624,349
Boots and shoes ...	doz. pairs	735,083	33,313	947,068
Butter & cheese ...	tons	238,613	55	185,192
Cloth—cotton, silk and woollen	sq. yards	3,218,590	8,718,730	7,860,532
Clothing—cotton silk and woollen	dozens	618,565	79,431	1,118,946
Coffee—raw and ground ...	tons	970,766	343	821,358
Crockery and glassware ...		662,908		785,678
Cycles, motor cycles and accessories ...				
Chemicals and drugs ...		1,178,553		1,441,087
Electrical goods and apparatus ...		2,769,322		2,830,374
Fish, dried, salted and in tins	tons	1,294,683		1,153,790
Flour, wheat ...		2,945,534	2,951	3,824,738
Fruits, fresh, dried and preserved	"	1,314,444	2,477	1,012,545
Iron, steel, etc., and manufactures thereof ...	"	1,197,532	1,004	1,067,569
Machinery ...		3,895,827		3,753,248
Milk, condensed, sterilized, etc. ...		5,753,111		6,265,387
Motor lorries, cars and accessories ...		3,188,034	1,990	2,986,827
		1,869,329		1,399,799







## DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS—Continued

	1952		1951	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Copra ...	...	tons	...	tons
Damar ...	...	"	...	"
Fish, fresh, dried and salted	...	"	...	"
Gutta—jangkar ...	...	"	...	"
jelutong raw	...	"	...	"
jelutong refined	...	"	...	"
jelutong pressed	...	"	...	"
percha ...	...	"	...	"
Nipah sugar	...	"	...	"
Oil—vegetable	...	"	...	"
crude petroleum	...	"	...	"
refined	...	"	...	"
Pepper ...	...	"	...	"
Prawns, dried	...	"	...	"
Rattana	...	"	...	"
Rubber, plantation	...	"	...	"
Sago flour	...	"	...	"
Timber ...	...	"	...	"
Cutch ...	...	cwts.	...	cwts.
	2,612	\$ 1,106,541	3,864	\$ 2,654,196
	2,236	738,564	964	613,829
	65	85,327	75½	92,496
	75	110,932	43	79,414
	154	161,305	110	117,210
	585	1,375,509	487	1,275,327
	328	571,137	498	917,794
	18	110,542	9	67,849
	99	31,417	139	58,387
	600½	353,793	27	32,124
	3,077,254	194,793,279	3,206,152	200,414,197
	1,874,688	112,267,672	1,741,446	102,772,482
	4,012½	33,031,835	1,209½	17,925,184
	57	144,212	54	165,483
	817	235,164	1,006	344,584
	31,471	65,182,029	42,521	158,865,402
	22,620	5,954,774	23,945	7,988,232
	98,309	8,925,910	54,528	4,727,834
	13,957	480,293 cwts.	15,600	501,820



## Chapter VII

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

The organisation responsible for land alienation and tenure and for the registration of rights to land remained the same as in previous years. A description of the method of dealing with the requirements of the public through the Land and Survey Departmental offices and the numerous administrative district and sub-district offices is given in the Annual Report for 1951.

This organisation has proved reliable and efficient over the past twenty years although shortage of staff has caused arrears of work. It has been difficult to find suitable recruits of the requisite standard, and young men of a lower academic standard have been recruited to maintain the strength of the technical staff. These recruits are being given special tuition in the recently established survey school to fit them for routine work in the beginning. Opportunities for promotion from the lower scale to the regular Junior Technical scale will be given to those of merit.

#### REVIEW OF LAND DISPOSITIONS FOR THE YEAR 1952

##### *Applications for new land*

Applications for land received during the year were 6816 for a total of 33,361 acres compared with 11,188 applications totalling 35,952 acres for 1951.

The 1952 applications are classified as follows :

Purpose	Acres	No. of Applications
Building	289	511
Rubber	9173	1398
Coconut	2410	389
Pepper	967	539
Sago	4391	605
Padi	6418	1552
Other agricultural	7355	1721
Cattle grazing	1320	49
Miscellaneous	1038	52
	<hr/> 33361 <hr/>	<hr/> 6816 <hr/>

There was an increase of 925 in the number of applications for land for rubber planting but a decrease of 3006 in applications for pepper land. Applications for sago land dropped by 463.



Most of the increased demand for rubber land came from the Third Division and is due to the opening up of land for block planting of rubber referred to later. The drop in applications for pepper land indicates that the land available for pepper planting is practically all taken up. These areas are mostly those worked out and abandoned in the nineteen thirties. They are being brought back by the use of fertiliser and the employment of more conservative methods of agriculture. This follows from the decision made early in 1951 that virgin forest land should no longer be made available for pepper planting.

About 75% of the sago land applications were in the Third Division and the decrease in these is not considered to indicate a falling off in the planting of sago. The demand for new sago land has probably already been met during the last few years. It is known that a great proportion of the land already alienated is still under forest.

*Applications dealt with :*

Outstanding from 1951	...	...	6679
Received in 1952	...	...	6816
Dealt with in 1952	...	...	6753

The applications dealt with were disposed of as follows :

Surveyed for title issue	...	...	5446
Land already surveyed	...	...	676
Cancelled, withdrawn, etc.	...	...	623
Title issued without survey	...	...	8

At the end of the year there remained 6741 applications, a slight increase in the arrears of this work.

Very little Crown Land remains for alienation in the town of Kuching: there are a few lots available for godowns in Padungan. As a general rule alienation of town and bazaar lots is by public auction. The following sales took place in 1952:

	<i>Number sold</i>	<i>Amount realised</i>
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade I ... ..	11	\$140,500.00
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade II ... ..	9	8,890.00
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade III ... ..	8	6,915.00
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade IV ... ..	4	8,550.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	32	\$164,855.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>



Other town lots Grade I  
(mainly residential) ... Nil

Other town lots Grade II  
(mainly residential) ... Nil

Prices of shop lots in Sibu still remain high, and the demand is still keen. As soon as land can be made available and road frontages provided, lots are put up for auction.

#### *Transactions in alienated land*

7875 instruments were registered during the year; they comprised:

Transfers	...	...	...	3761
Charges	...	...	...	1259
Release of Charges	...	...	...	723
Sub-leases	...	...	...	56
Surrenders to the Crown	...	...	...	375
Affidavits	...	...	...	39
Letters of Administration	...	...	...	433
Caveats	...	...	...	159
Miscellaneous (i.e. Deeds of Exchange, etc.)				458
Powers of Attorney or Revocation	...			102
Transmission by Probate in case of small estates				510

#### *Issue of titles for Crown Land*

9421 leases were issued during the year for approved applications, making the total number of titles extant at 31st December, 1952, 120,612.

#### *Miscellaneous Surveys and Inspections*

Requests for sub-division of alienated land were 471. Miscellaneous inspections of land were 874.

### LAND CLASSIFICATION DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT

#### *Mixed Zone and Native Areas*

The following areas were constituted under the Land Classification Ordinance during the year:

<i>Mixed Zones</i>			<i>Area</i>
1st Division	...	...	22.24 acres
2nd Division	...	...	320 square miles
3rd Division	...	...	143.31 square miles
4th Division	...	...	16.51 acres
5th Division	...	...	—



The following ceased to be Native Area Land and became Mixed Zone land :—

			<i>Area</i>
1st Division	...	...	39.00 acres
2nd Division	...	...	14.80 acres
3rd Division	...	...	1.32 square miles
4th Division	...	...	—
5th Division	...	...	—

<i>Native Areas</i>			<i>Area</i>
1st Division	...	...	45.86 acres
2nd Division	...	...	—
3rd Division	...	...	1.25 acres
4th Division	...	...	—
5th Division	...	...	—

The following ceased to be Mixed Zone Land and became Native Area Land :—

			<i>Area</i>
1st Division	...	...	24.67 square miles
2nd Division	...	...	650.60 square miles
3rd Division	...	...	—
4th Division	...	...	—
5th Division	...	...	—

The total areas of each category in the country are now :

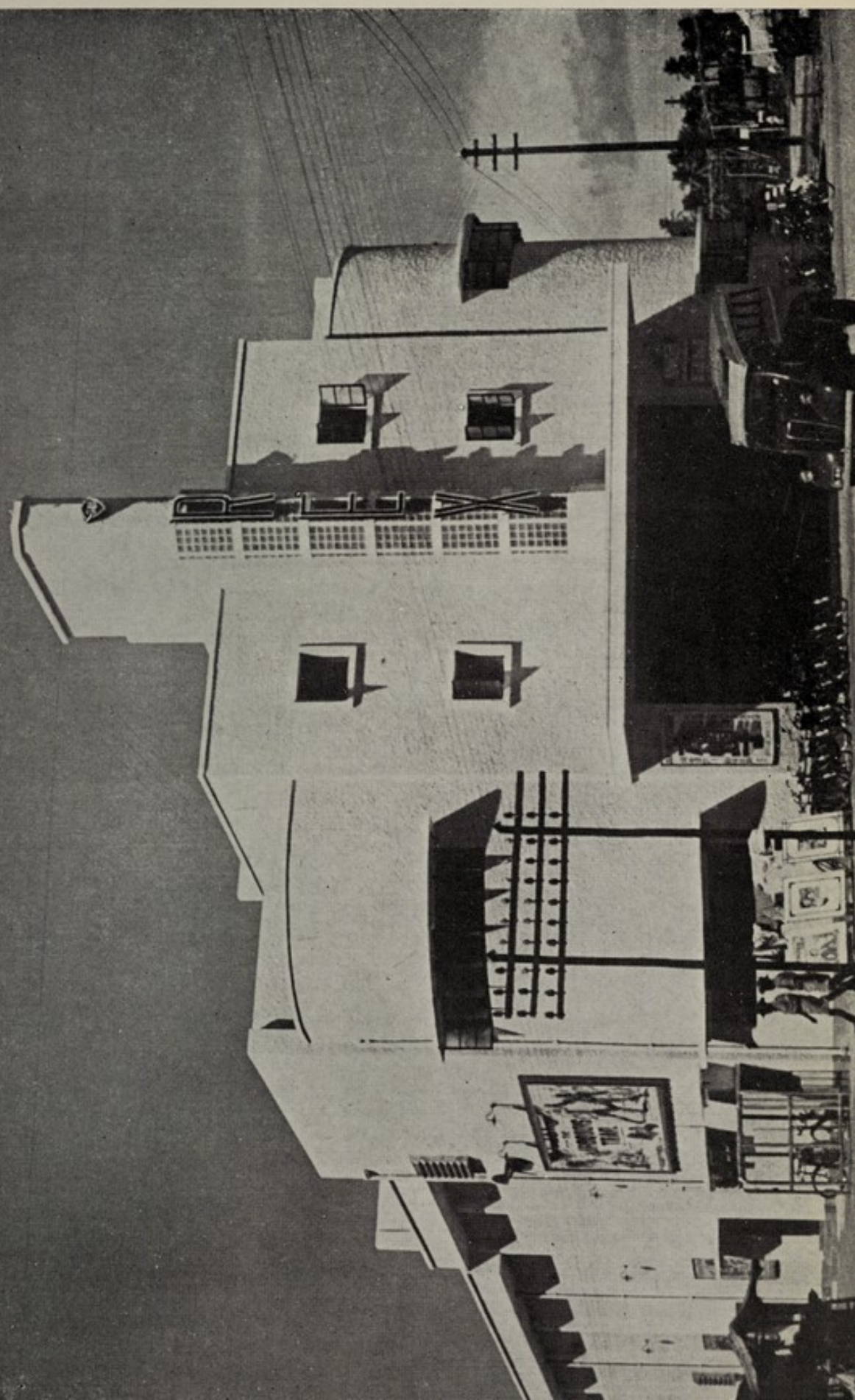
Mixed Zones where both natives and non-natives hold land about 4278 square miles.

Native Areas where only natives can hold land about 931 square miles.

The rest of Sarawak (41,791 square miles) is Interior Area and Native Customary Land, where, apart from mining and forestry undertakings, the only occupied land is that consisting of farming and other native lands, generally lying away from the main centres of trade and plantation industry. Only general administrative control is exercised over these farming lands.

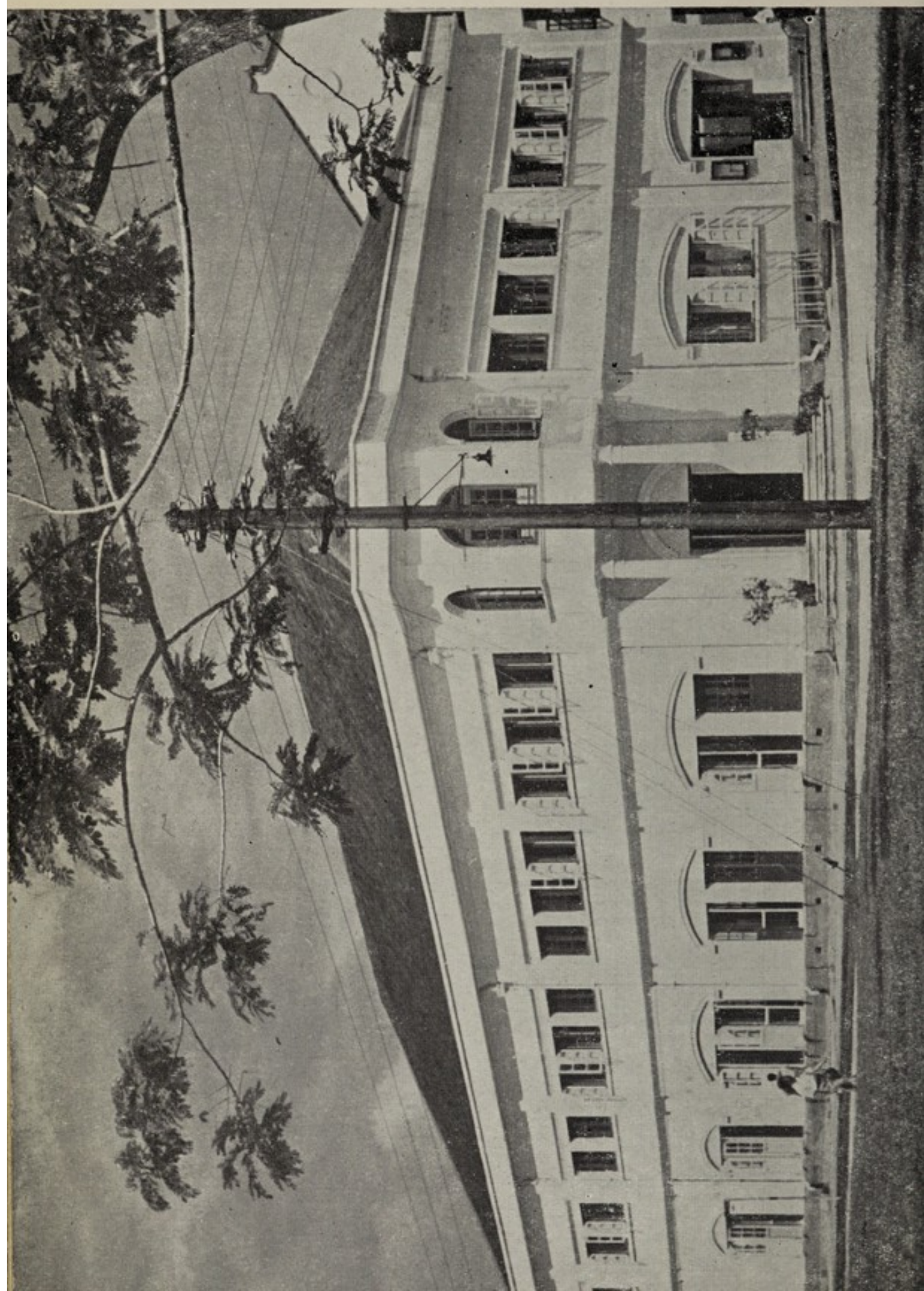


The Changing Sky-  
line of Kuching—the  
new Rex Cinema in  
Temple Street on the  
course of the former  
Sungei Kuching





Local Government—  
The headquarters  
office of the Municipality of Kuching  
(formerly the Government Printing office)





## LAND USE

In Sarawak at the end of 1952, the area and nature of individual land holdings was as shown below. Figures are in some cases approximate.

Type of holding	Number of holdings	Acreage	Average size in acres of holding
Building ...	6,285	2,953	0.47
Rubber, native ...	81,716	245,421 *	1.46
Rubber, non-native ..	20,430		5.99
Coconut ...	8,721	75,974	8.71
Pepper ...	11,602	35,581	3.07
Sago ...	12,119	87,027	7.18
Padi ...	15,247†	74,638	4.90
Other agricultural ...	20,904	117,997	5.64
Cattle grazing ...	744	21,299	28.63
Miscellaneous ...	4,179	16,504	3.95
Totals ...	181,947	677,394	—

\* Sarawak is a country of small holdings. Out of 102,146 rubber holdings there are only 40 that are over 100 acres in size; of these 35 cover 6,723 acres leaving only 5 large estates occupying 10,579 acres.

† This figure for padi holdings is exclusive of communal farming and native customary lands. These cover approximately 91,000 acres and comprise 48,000 acres of wet padi land, and 43,000 acres of land given over to hill padi and shifting cultivation.

## SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS

In order to meet the demand of the Chinese farmers of the Third Division it was agreed that selected blocks of land should be opened up. Some of these blocks are in peat swamp forest unsuitable for padi growing. Although it is not very suitable for rubber, the fact that much of the present rubber in the Lower Rejang was planted on swamp land has attracted applicants. The proposal provides for 24 blocks totalling 26,000 acres but it is very doubtful if all this area is required immediately. It is becoming evident from investigation that the genuine demand for land by landless Chinese has been very much exaggerated by the leaders of the Chinese communities concerned. At the end of the year applications were being accepted for two blocks covering approximately 8500 acres.



A scheme to settle 130 Chinese on land for rubber, coconut and padi on the coastal lands between Oya and Mukah has been completed and will be surveyed early in 1953. The settlement of Chinese on the Lower Rejang Delta wet padi lands has made satisfactory progress. All the readily usable padi land in the Mixed Zones created under the scheme has been applied for with the exceptions of the four mixed zones in the Batang Igan. These applications total 5350 acres.

#### OPERATIONS UNDER THE LAND SETTLEMENT ORDINANCE

The only work that can be considered under this heading, i.e. the settlement of legal and equitable claims of people already on the land, is the pre-settlement surveys in the Pantu area of the Second Division, which began towards the end of the year.

Operations under the Land Settlement Ordinance were intended, in 1933, to achieve two aims :

- (a) to settle claims to land where alienation has been taking place for some considerable time before 1933 and where many titles were old, inaccurate, and confused ; and
- (b) to overtake gradually and supersede operations carried out since 1933 in the alienation of land under the 1932 Land Ordinance.

It has been apparent for some time that the latter aim is impossible to achieve, and that, owing to the progress made in alienation of land under the Land Ordinance, it would be a waste of time and money even if it could be done. The reason is that practically all titles issued under the Land Ordinance since 1933 are as sound (as regards boundaries) as titles issued in the same period under the Land Settlement Ordinance. It will thus be possible to bring them under a limited form of "settlement" title without further investigation. It is proposed soon to provide the legal machinery for this and thereby to confine deliberate operations under the Settlement Ordinance to areas where old and inaccurate titles still exist or where native customary rights are complicated. All titles will be carried to the same common Land Register, using the parcel number and block number system of reference ; but those coming direct from Land Ordinance leases without further investigation may need to be in some degree limited.

#### HOUSING TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

##### KUCHING

##### *Housing*

The overcrowding of Kuching remains a major problem despite the greater availability of building materials and the marked increase in the number of dwelling houses erected during the year.



Building costs are still high, but much of the profit from the boom years was invested in property and a good many houses were built.

Strict enforcement of the Municipal By-laws relating to the construction and sitings of buildings was the only factor controlling private enterprise (other than the Rent Control Ordinance) but it is doubtful whether the year's increased building has kept pace with the expansion of population. It is probable that the present situation is even worse than it was at the 1951 survey which showed that the Bazaar was greatly overcrowded, and that accommodation for more than 1000 families should be found as soon as possible.

The implications of past surveys were clearly borne out by a report made by the Manager of the Singapore Improvement Trust. Plans were made under the Development Scheme for a housing project for Kuching, but the low priority given to the scheme by the Development Board prevented the scheme from being begun in 1952.

Here, as elsewhere, private enterprise cannot provide mass rehousing. The task must be undertaken by the Local Authority.

The Co-operative Development Department has tried to rehouse fishermen in more salubrious conditions and 18 to 20 houses were erected by co-operative effort during the year, giving adequate living quarters to thirty families. This is the first part of a three year scheme. Native houses in kampong areas have much increased, and a Chinese speculator built 15 shophouses—the first of 45. But these represent only a small part of the houses required to give proper living conditions.

New Junior Service Government quarters for thirty families have been built. This has enabled officers to live in good conditions without exorbitant rents. Senior Service bungalows are filled as fast as they are built.

The problems of sanitation and health which follow overcrowding can be solved only by a bold housing scheme; for the enforcement of by-laws, demolition and eviction do not answer the realities of the situation. The Rent Control Order, though giving tenants some security of tenure, is only a legislative substitute for more houses.

The present unsatisfactory conditions can be cured only by doubling the building area. Consideration of this matter is of immediate importance. With the provision of adequate housing, many social welfare problems will automatically disappear.

### *Town Planning*

Considerable strides have been made in the planning of Kuching Town.

A Committee set up some years ago made a master plan which was recently approved in principle by the Supreme Council. This is the skeleton of main roads and zones on which future planning will be based.



Under this plan land has been acquired for road reserves, new buildings have been sited and building lines fixed. The Town and Country Planning Ordinance (1952) has enabled the planning committee to go ahead with development where it could not be done before for lack of authority.

Events of interest in 1952 were:

- (a) The establishment of the Henghua fishing community in a "better living co-operative" reserve in the Sungei Kuap area.
- (b) The establishment of a bulk oil installation at Sungei Biawak, near Pending point.
- (c) The laying out of a large block at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile Rock Road for Junior Service quarters (there will be a hundred quarters with a small shopping centre and other amenities).
- (d) The siting of public buildings including the Anti-Tuberculosis Association Clinic, the Government Health Centre, the new Secretariat Offices, Broadcasting House, the British Red Cross Society, the Overseas Chinese Bank, the Rex Cinema, and many others.
- (e) The recognition of the principle of grouping the main public buildings of the town round the Padang which it is proposed by the Planning Committee shall henceforth be regarded as a "civic centre".

The Planning Committee does not intend to erect a centre where all the best buildings would be concentrated, but to group associated buildings where they will be readily accessible to the public.

This includes an open space for ceremonies and recreation and, around it, public buildings of harmonious design with local, rather than national, associations.

Plans are also proceeding for the development of a port area beyond Sungei Periok on the Pending Road to help the inadequate port facilities in Kuching Town. This requires an arterial road to the town from the proposed port area, and the establishment of godown and factory areas.

A Fun Fair was built near the Racecourse, three fairly large shopping areas were sited and land surveys for a large housing scheme carried out.

#### OTHER CENTRES

Most of the outlying centres of trade (except some recently expanded towns mentioned later) are comparatively small bazaars which, though the volume of trade therein is considerable, do not present serious housing and planning problems.



These bazaars began in the early days as small groups of trading shops on river banks and later grew to a stage where some planning with rebuilding in view was desirable. Over the last twenty years practically all these small centres have been replanned on simple and hygienic lines permitting future expansion. In many cases the destruction by accidental fire of blocks of old and insanitary shop-houses has made the task of planning and housing a simple one.

In other places new sites have been selected for immediate re-building or for re-building at a later date.

The larger centres such as Miri, Sibu, Sarikei, Binatang and Simanggang have all been laid out on new lines to form a regular township where only permanent buildings of brick or concrete can be built. In Sibu this occurred after the fire of 1928, and Miri was replanned after the war owing to the completed destruction of the town during military operation. Sarikei and Binatang were new towns growing rapidly with the increasing trade of the Lower Rejang and expansion was controlled by plans drawn up in the early thirties. The Simanggang plan provides for the possible expansion of this centre on completion of the arterial road from Kuching.

At all these places a residential area has been formed, in some cases by setting aside Crown Land for alienation as residential lots and in others by controlled sub-division of agricultural land. This, however, does not provide for all the trading population many of whom live in the shophouses.

All but three of the fourteen bazaars destroyed during and since the war have been completely or nearly rebuilt.

## SURVEYS AND MAPPING

### *Cadastral Surveys*

The field work in 1952 for the alienation of new land, reservation of land, revision surveys, mutations of title, and inspections etc. consisted of the following totals in all categories of land :—

#### *Country Lands*

Prismatic compass boundary surveys (3066 miles) 7872 lots @ \$24.06 per lot.

Theodolite control traverses 381 miles @ \$139.85 per mile.

#### *Town Lands*

Theodolite survey of lots 3518 chains 286 lots @ \$3.09 per chain and \$38.03 per lot.



Theodolite survey queries etc. 1246 chains @ \$1.77 per chain.

Miscellaneous cadastral surveys and inspections without survey 1409 lots @ \$15.92 per lot.

The cadastral charting on record sheets for the year consisted of the following :—

No. of Theodolite Traverses : computed for charting 79 Charted 56.

New lots charted 7527

Revision charting 3790 lots charted.

The arrears of current field work have already been mentioned. Arrears of office work are :

(a) theodolite traverses awaiting action  
computation, 54  
charting, 84 : and

(b) lots awaiting charting, 3049.

Some progress has been made in reducing arrears as compared with 1951.

During the year, at the request of the Government of Brunei, a start was made on the revision of the Brunei cadastral survey, made necessary by the loss of certain survey records during the war.

#### TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEYS

The topographical work carried out in 1952 is as follows :

River surveys	Nil
Compass traverses	60 miles @ \$ 88.88 per mile
Levelling	16 miles @ \$146.70 per mile

Ground control for air photo mapping :

Field identification of trig points 24 points

The Royal Air Force was not able to do much air photography for topographical maps during the year because of other commitments and bad weather.

1/35000 photography of 1,110 square miles was completed, and 34 trig points were photographed for identification. The total area of Sarawak covered by air photography at the end of 1952 was 34,310 square miles, leaving about 12,500 square miles to be done.

#### TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPPING

Work on the 1/50,000 regular series of maps continued during the year at the Directorate of Colonial Surveys. All ground control for the first eleven sheets has now been supplied by the Land and Survey Department, Sarawak. The Department produced by photostat preliminary sketch maps for the use of various departments, and



compiled from air-photograph data. These were originally prepared as a part of the programme of final mapping, and used by field parties to collect place names and river names, but they have been useful, when the names have been completed, as a general preliminary sketch map. The area covered amounts to the entire First Division and a small area at Sibuti in the Fourth Division. The photostat mosaics are also a useful source of information for the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Geological Survey. It is likely that the demand for these mosaics will go on even after 1/50,000 maps become available. 950 square miles of mosaics were completed in the year covering 20,450 square miles. The mosaics are compiled from photostat copies of air photographs. They follow the layout of the regular topographical sheet series.

## FINANCIAL

The revenue and expenditure of the Land and Survey Department for 1952 is as follows :

<i>Revenue</i>		<i>Expenditure</i>	
Land Sales and premiums	\$252,691.75	Personal emoluments	\$654,135.46
Stamp duty ...	124,075.92	Other charges	292,094.68
Registration fees ...	19,315.00	Compensation for land	143,337.22
Application fees ...	13,450.00	Special expenditure	31,174.33
Quit rent ...	396,457.10		
Survey & Land Office fees ...	90,223.95		
Total ...	<u>\$896,213.72</u>	Total ...	<u>\$1,120,741.69</u>

## MINING

4 General Prospecting Licences and 8 Panning Licences were issued during the year. No Exclusive Prospecting Licences were issued and those extant at the beginning of the year for bauxite prospecting were surrendered during the year. A total area of 3939 acres



is still held under Mining Leases, of which there are now twenty-five, for gold. This has been the only mining activity, with a production of 843 fine ounces.



# SARAWAK

LAND UTILIZATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mile 0 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles

## LEGEND

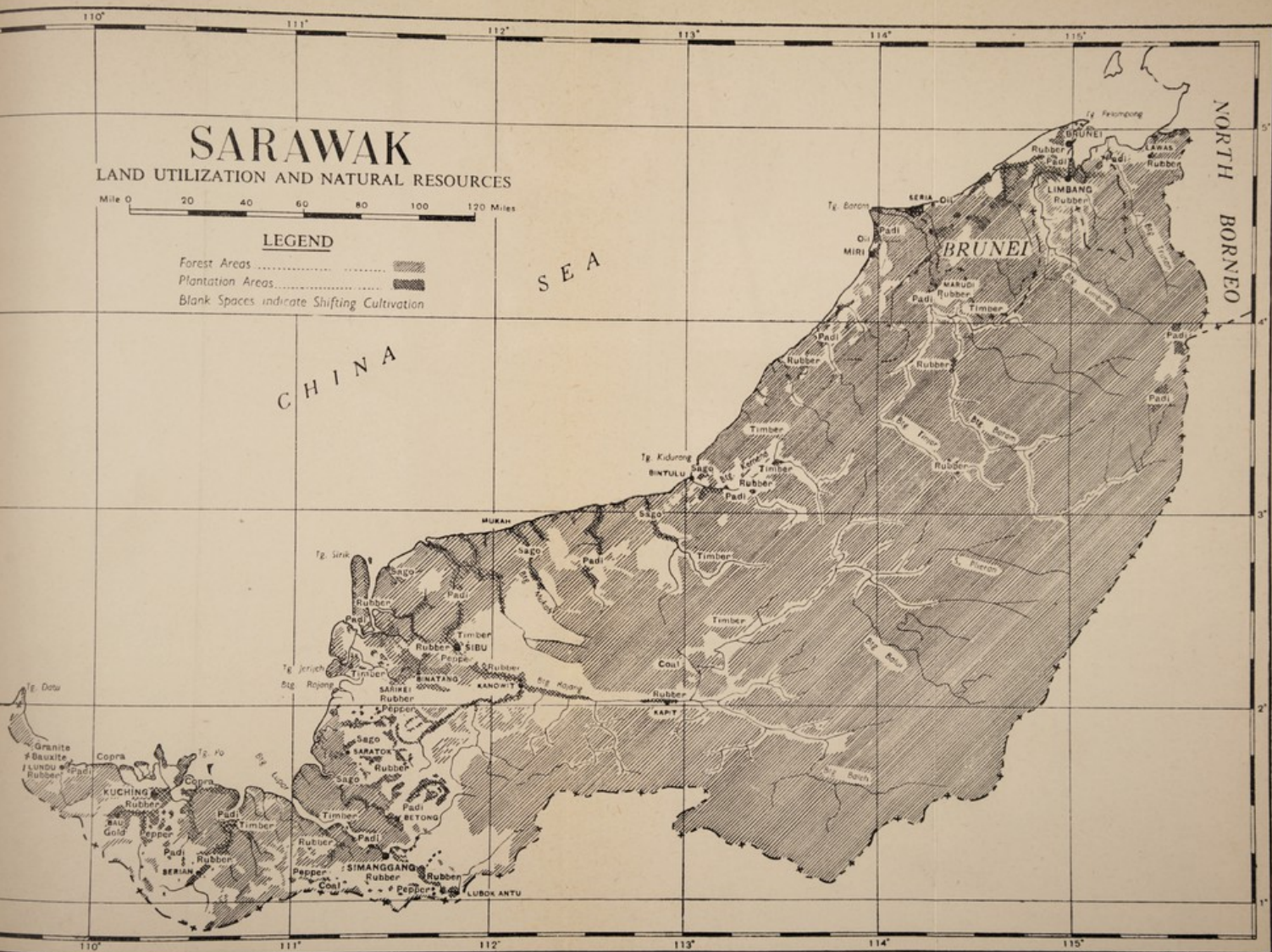
Forest Areas .....  
Plantation Areas .....  
Blank Spaces indicate Shifting Cultivation

SEA

CHINA

NORTH BORNEO

BRUNEI





1877

LAND OFFICE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

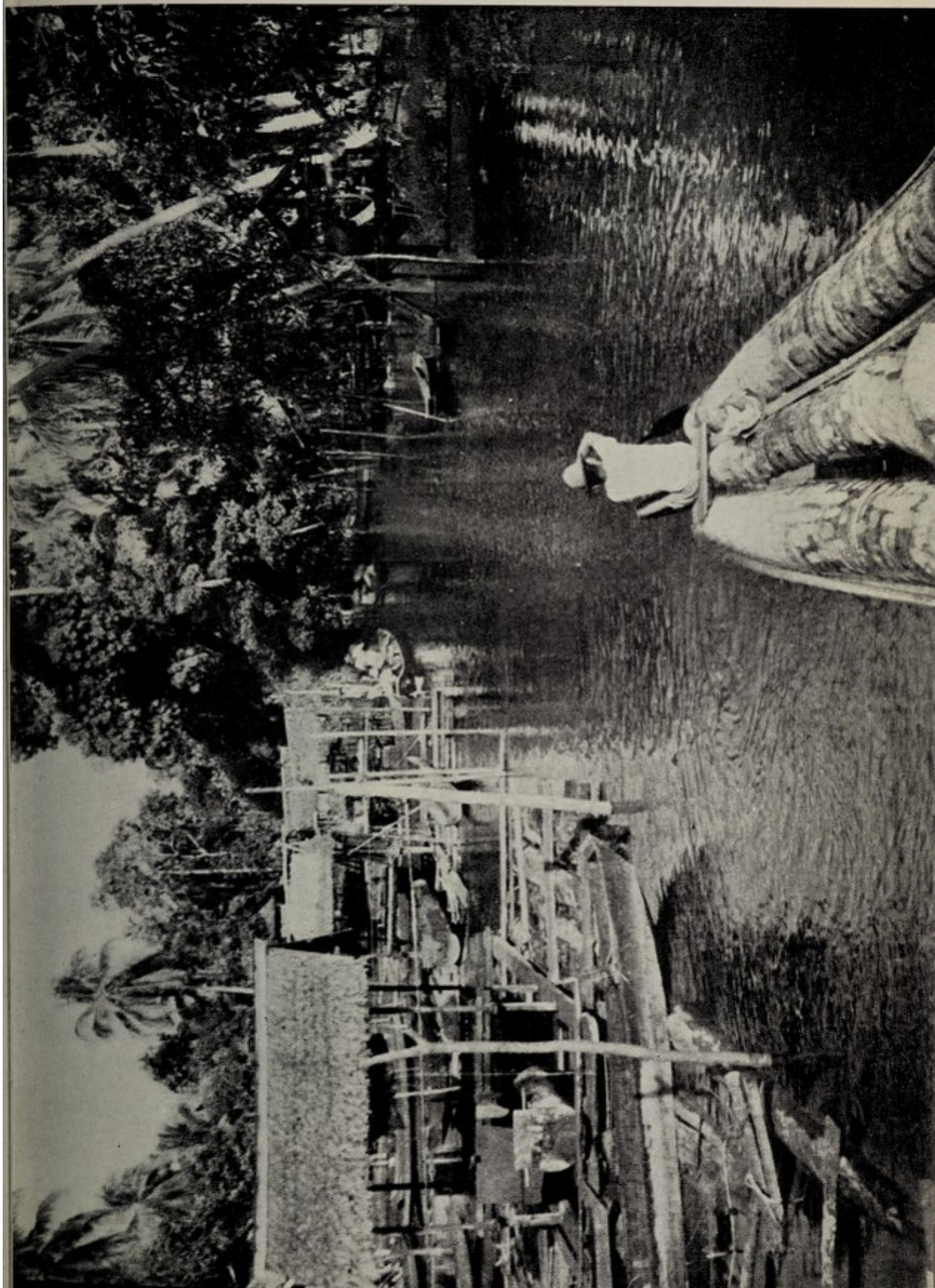
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE LAND COMMISSIONER

WASHINGTON, D. C.

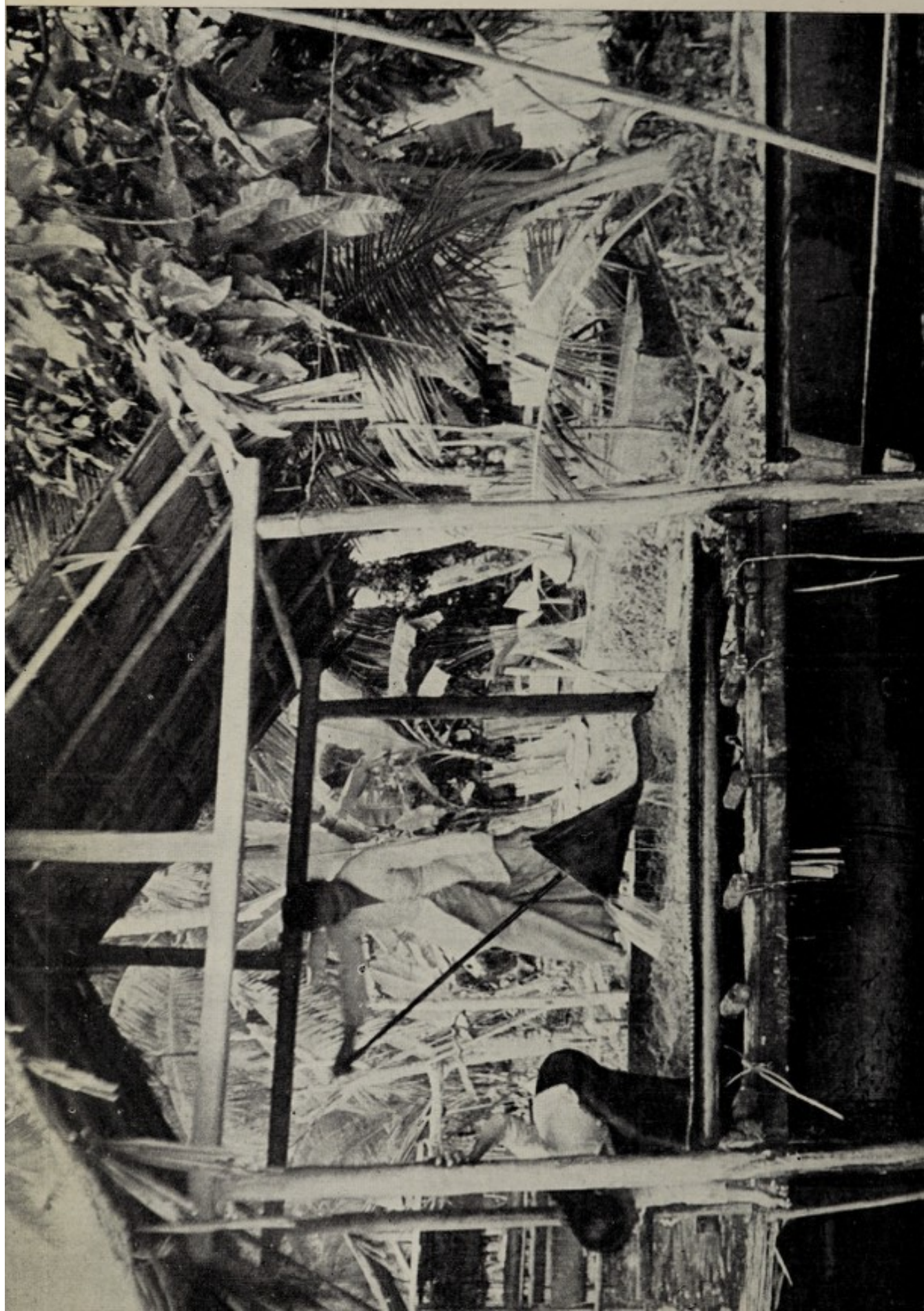


The Sago Industry—  
A Melanau paddling  
a raft of sago palm  
trunks at Sungei Ud,  
Dalat





The Sago Industry—  
swilling water over  
'temanta' (raw sago)  
in a 'mesap' shed,  
at Kampong Medong,  
Oya River





## *Chapter VIII*

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### PRODUCTION

#### AGRICULTURE

The country has an area of about 47,000 square miles of which it is estimated about 13,000 square miles are used for agricultural purposes. The 1947 census showed a population of about 546,400 persons; the overall population density is therefore low, averaging only 11.4 persons per square mile. It has been estimated that on the basis of existing methods of subsistence farming—which is the only sound method on which to assess short-term potentialities for agricultural development—the country could not safely support a rural population of more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million people.

Preliminary surveys show that approximately 5,600 square miles of the flat delta and coastal regions consist of deep peat swamps at or near sea level; most of this land is unsuitable as it stands for agricultural purposes, and it would probably be impracticable and uneconomic to reclaim much of it for wet padi cultivation. There are however considerable areas of moderately good wet padi land estimated at a total of not more than 2,000 square miles, situated mainly on the river banks in the delta areas.

The hinterland and interior of the country consists largely of steep hills and mountains. Flat land is occasionally found between the hills but the total area of this flat land only forms a small part of the whole and it is generally difficult to reach from the coastal areas. The soils of the hinterland and interior are for the most part extremely thin and poor by ordinary standards and their poverty has frequently been aggravated by severe erosion and leaching. Scattered outcrops of basic and intermediate igneous rocks and of limestones do occur and where they are found there is a marked local improvement in the quality of the alluvial soils; unfortunately the total extent of the good alluvial soils is comparatively small.

Favourable climatic conditions do to some extent counteract the general poverty of the soils, and wherever even a moderate depth of reasonably friable soil occurs vegetative growth is often surprisingly vigorous particularly if small dressings of fertilisers are applied by special methods that are being developed by the Department of Agriculture.

The average annual rainfall is of the order of 160 inches; in the south-western part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and



February but in the north-eastern part the maxima and minima are not so pronounced and the distribution of rainfall is more uniform. Very heavy local storms account for a great deal of the rainfall and these storms sometime cause disastrous unexpected floods that may well be one of the main reasons for the limited development of the country's agriculture in the past; unfortunately the limited areas of good alluvial soil are all too often the areas particularly subject to serious flooding. The periods of heavy rainfall are often succeeded by short dry hot periods and vegetation on the thin poor soils then quickly gives the impression of a prolonged drought. Shade temperatures average  $80^{\circ}\text{F}$  and there is little variation from this average, daily minima below  $70^{\circ}\text{F}$  or maxima above  $90^{\circ}\text{F}$  not often being recorded. Atmospheric humidity is generally high; though sometimes, particularly during a dry spell, there is a marked drop in relative humidity in the forenoon. Sunshine records have only recently been started, but it would appear that the general average for the country will only be about five hours bright sunshine per day or even less than this.

Pest damage on crops can be extremely serious at times; observations suggest insect pests may be more serious than fungoid pests, though it is possible that as more intensive cultivation is practised fungoid pests may become a greater menace. Small animals, particularly rats and squirrels, are a major pest; and wild pigs, monkeys and deer can also do considerable damage. Giant snails are also becoming a pest of increasing importance. Small birds do a great deal of damage to standing padi crops and doves in some places are becoming increasingly troublesome on grain crops generally.

Apart from five large rubber estates, small farms are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the native farmer to develop the country's agriculture by working a mixed system of farming, rather than development by the large specialised plantation. It is now generally agreed that some control over the farmer will be necessary, if progress is to be made in accordance with this policy, and that this control can best be exercised through the establishment of "group farming" units. The prospects for development of co-operative societies for the country's rural industries are promising.

The developmental work of the Department of Agriculture has been seriously hindered since the war by the acute shortage of trained and experienced staff. Difficulties consequent on this shortage have been aggravated by the primitive state of the country's communications. The position is still difficult but has eased a little since the establishment in 1951 with financial assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund of a permanent Department of Agriculture Staff Training School near Kuching.



Much of the Department's efforts since the Liberation have been concentrated on preliminary surveys and investigation work necessitated by the dearth of previously recorded technical information about agricultural conditions.

Considering the difficulties that have to be contended with, good progress is now being made on development schemes. Most of the schemes were to begin with dependent on financial assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund and indeed without this assistance the schemes could not have been started; the cost of the schemes is however now being borne to an increasing extent by Sarawak herself. The main schemes are group farming projects with wet padi as the main crop and are sited at the 27th mile Serian Road and Muara Tuang in the First Division, at Bijat and Tanjong Lubok Nibong in the Second Division, at Rantau Panjang and S'Tapang in the Third Division, at Sibuti in the Fourth Division, and at Bangkita in the Fifth Division. Excellent progress is being made on these schemes; it is difficult to quote figures to illustrate the progress made as already the schemes' influence extends over far wider areas than the areas immediately surrounding the demonstrations staged by the Department of Agriculture; progress is evident not only as far as agricultural practice is concerned but also from the point of view of community development as a whole. Development Centres demonstrating other aspects of the Department's work are now operating in various parts of the country; Tarat in the First Division is the most important of these but other important centres are working at Semongok and Kuap in the First Division, at Simanggang in the Second Division, at Belaga in the Third Division, at Tanjong Tahap (Baram) and Pujut Lopeng in the Fourth Division and at Bangkita in the Fifth Division. Most of the centres have now become striking demonstrations of what can be achieved in Sarawak by stabilised intensive methods of farming as opposed to the shifting land robbing that is all too common at present. The results of the work leave little doubt that Sarawak could safely support a very much higher population than the 2½ million suggested earlier in this section provided the methods advocated by the Department were widely adopted; particularly as far as the sound use of fertilisers, the use of a limited amount of suitable farm machinery and the adoption of sound methods of pest control are concerned.

The position with regard to particular crops is briefly as follows :-

#### *Padi*

Rice is Sarawak's staple foodstuff and padi is the main crop. The export of rice or padi is not at present permitted. There is no doubt, from the technical point of view, that Sarawak could be self supporting in rice; in fact, when prices for the main export products are low and there is little money available in the rural



areas for the purchase of imported rice, the country does of necessity approach self-sufficiency in this commodity. When however, prices of export products are high (as in 1950 and 1951 when rubber and pepper fetched record prices) interest in padi planting (wet padi particularly) wanes and Sarawak may become dependent on imports for as much as half its rice requirements.

Imports of rice have continued since the war and have been as follows :-

1947	—	19,272	metric tons.
1948	—	17,525	„ „
1949	—	11,517	„ „
1950	—	25,478	„ „
1951	—	31,907	„ „
1952	—	28,723	„ „

The Government has operated a padi purchasing scheme since 1946 and has guaranteed a minimum buying price for locally grown padi. To start with the scheme undoubtedly encouraged padi production but the guaranteed price is now well below the open market price (which is highly profitable to the farmer) and few purchases are being made by Government.

Shifting dry padi cultivation on the hills does account for a considerable part of the padi produced in Sarawak. When adequate bush fallows are observed the method is not an unsound way of utilising the poor hill land for food production in places where the use of fertilisers is not practicable; when misused though, the method is very destructive and does lead to very serious problems concerning the conservation of natural resources. Powers to control and rationalise the practice are now available under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1950 and are being applied in localities where a majority of the people concerned have come to realise the need for them. Due to the scattered patchy and variable nature of the hill padi cultivation and to the difficulties of communication in the areas concerned it is impossible to obtain anything approaching accurate statistics with regard to the crop; it is estimated though that the area of secondary jungle and scrub cleared regularly each year for the crop is of the order of 500,000 acres. Whilst under favourable conditions surprisingly high yields of good quality padi are obtainable under the system, poor crops are often obtained and complete failures are common; it is estimated that over a period of years average yields cannot exceed 100 gantangs (gallons) of padi per acre at the very most.

Wet padi is cultivated, mainly in the delta and coastal areas. The methods employed are generally primitive and vary from a true swamp cultivation to a semi-wet type of extensive cultivation on the riverbank levees; intensive annual cultivation with effective water control is not commonly found. Yields are generally low



and it is estimated that over a period of years the average is not more than 200 gantangs per acre for all types of wet padi cultivation. The total acreage of wet padi cultivated varies considerably from year to year as indicated earlier; so far due to shortage of staff it has not been possible to make reliable estimates of acreage but it is believed that the maximum acreage that is planted each year is of the order of 200,000 acres.

There is great scope for intensification of cultivation on the wet padi land, particularly as far as improved water control is concerned. A great deal can be done as far as conservation of rain water falling on the fields is concerned by construction of small bunds, but even in the wet season severe dry periods are liable to occur and provision of some irrigation water is generally necessary. Construction and maintenance of gravity fed canals is often difficult or impracticable but considerable success is being obtained with small diesel driven pumping plants raising water from the rivers which usually flow adjacent to the padi land. Effective methods of rat control have been developed and are leading to major increases in padi actually harvested per acre. Whilst the swamp padi varieties when grown in the swamps do not usually respond to fertilisers it has been found that very large responses can often be obtained on some at least of the local dry and semi-wet varieties; this finding is obviously of great potential importance and is being followed up. When the majority of the farmers concerned favour it selected areas are now being declared as "wet padi land" under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1950 and must then be farmed intensively according to certain simple rules.

The 1951-1952 padi crop was generally good but unfortunately the total acreage was well below average. A greatly increased area has been planted for the 1952-1953 crop and the acreage is probably near normal; at the end of 1952, due to favourable weather, prospects were excellent but late rain and floods have since caused some damage.

### *Rubber*

Rubber is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important agricultural export. It was estimated in 1941 that there were approximately 240,000 acres under rubber, of which 10,580 acres were on five large estates, the remainder being accounted for by small holdings each less than 5 acres in size. It is possible that the acreage increased during the period of enemy occupation. Most of the acreage is occupied by old seedling rubber in very poor condition and must be regarded as a wasting asset. Technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard. Rubber prices which in 1950 reached a phenomenal level, remained high during 1951 and the industry was extremely



prosperous. Prices dropped considerably in 1952. There is now considerable interest in planting and replanting of rubber with high yielding material and suitable budwood and clonal seed are being supplied by the Department of Agriculture. In order to guard against planting on land needed for wet padi and suitable for that purpose, it has again become necessary to control planting by reimposition of certain sections of the Rubber Regulation Ordinance which had been suspended in 1946. A small modern factory for processing latex collected from surrounding smallholders has recently been erected near Kuching and is operating successfully; the success of this pilot scheme suggests that such small centralised factories may well be the answer to the problem of improving the quality of rubber exported from Sarawak. It is intended to erect, in 1953, a similar small factory at Sibü.

### *Sago*

It is estimated that there are about 150,000 acres under sago cultivation, the major part lying in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the Third Division though there are fairly large areas in parts of the Second Division as well. No detailed information as to the number of palms and their age and condition is at present available, but taking account of land under fallow and of land occupied by young immature palms, it is estimated that about 75,000 acres can at present be regarded as under productive sago. Yields per acre are generally not high and the methods of extracting the flour are some times primitive and the quality of the product poor. For a time after the war production of sago flour was at a high level and there is no doubt that the gardens were in consequence overworked. Production is now more in accord with rates of regeneration and replanting and some interest is being shown in new plantings. Since the passing of the Sago Flour (Control Exports) Ordinance 1948, export of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum standard of quality has been prohibited; the more progressive sections of the trade have on the whole co-operated well and there has been considerable improvement in the general quality of the flour exported. Investigations which are being made into the technical properties of Sarawak sago flour suggest that its potentialities as a source of industrial starch have not in the past been fully utilised; with the co-operation of the home trade considerable progress has now been made in the increased production of a flour to meet certain special requirements; this special flour is now generally known as "high viscosity" flour.

### *Pepper*

This was an important export product for many years before the war; quality was excellent and the best grade commanded the highest prices offered in the world markets. Unfortunately nearly



all the gardens were abandoned during the Japanese occupation but considerable replanting has taken place and there is little doubt that the number of tended vines now exceeds the pre-war total. The vines are planted in small gardens, frequently less than half an acre in extent. Before the war most of the pepper gardens were owned and worked by Chinese but recently there has been a major increase in the gardens planted by Dayaks in interior areas. The gardens are usually planted on sloping land and clean weeded; losses of soil by erosion are very large and action is being taken with powers available under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1950; in some areas the response from the Chinese gardeners to this anti-erosion drive has been excellent though some mild local opposition is being met with in places. Prices in 1952 dropped a little but still remained at a highly profitable level; an unexpected feature of the price is the small margin that now exists between the prices received for white and black pepper (previously Sarawak white used to command a far higher price than Sarawak black). Exports of all types of pepper in 1952 totalled 67,424 piculs. It is estimated that exports in 1953 will be about 80,000 piculs; expectations would be higher but for the fact that certain diseases that were very troublesome before the war are again beginning to make themselves felt.

### *Coconuts*

This is mainly a small-holder's crop largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage is estimated at only 21,000 acres though many of the palms are known to be old and in very poor condition. Some copra is exported but the quality is usually very low; the Department of Agriculture is now demonstrating simple methods of production of good quality copra.

### *Maize*

This crop is grown to some extent on the more fertile land but is usually planted by occasional patches among the padi crops.

### *Jobs Tears, Ragi and Sorghum*

These are grown to a small extent but usually only regarded as substitutes for padi in time of emergency and as poultry food. A single ear selection of sorghum made from a recent importation of seed by the Department of Agriculture shows considerable promise.

### *Sweet Potatoes, Tapioca and Yams*

All are grown throughout the country for use as everyday vegetables and as substitutes for rice in time of shortage.



### *Fruit Trees*

Fruit trees are found in the villages but the demand for fruit far exceeds supply and there is considerable scope for planting further trees of local types such as durian, rambutan, and mangosteen.

### *Fresh Vegetables*

Production, except by some Chinese market gardens near the towns, is only on a small scale. A fair variety of tropical vegetables can be grown though the exceptionally heavy rainfall does at times hinder their intensive cultivation. The production of some temperate climate vegetables is possible in parts of the uplands.

### *Pineapples*

This fruit will grow on most types of soil in Sarawak and fruit of high quality and exceptional flavour can be produced on the drained peat soils.

### *Coffee*

Coffee is cultivated to a small extent near the villages for local consumption.

### *Tuba Root (Derris)*

This root has been cultivated in the past but production and export are now small.

### *Gambier*

This was an important crop many years ago but production is now negligible.

### *Tobacco*

Tobacco for local consumption is planted in small areas near the villages. The quality of the product can probably be improved.

### *Cocoa*

This crop is not yet cultivated by farmers in Sarawak but some observation plots established by the Department of Agriculture show some promise on the better types of soil particularly when fertilisers are used. Five hundred seedlings raised in quarantine in Malaya from clean selected seed obtained from the Gold Coast have been planted in the First Division and are now in bearing; all the pods produced are at present being used to raise further seedlings and a total of 550 plants have so far been distributed to various parts of Sarawak.



## LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY

Livestock husbandry at present plays but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Buffaloes are in quantity only in the Fifth Division and are used for meat production and for cultivating padi fields by trampling; the total number in the Fifth Division is estimated at about 6,000 and elsewhere in the country the number is negligible. Small herds of cattle are occasionally found but the total number is very small. Control is now exercised over the slaughter of cows and female buffaloes in order to meet the need for increasing stocks. The Department of Agriculture has recently imported for experimental purposes small numbers of selected Red Sindhi, Kelantan and Bali cattle. Pigs are kept by Chinese smallholders and are also generally found in and around Dayak houses. There is scope for the development of pork production provided the supply of feeding stuffs can be improved and this matter is being given increasing attention. The Department of Agriculture has successfully introduced some pure bred Middle White pigs from England and these are proving most suitable for mating with local breeds. Farmers are being encouraged to keep more ducks as they are easy to look after and fit in well with local farming systems. Domestic fowls are found in most villages but they do not do well in Sarawak except in the hands of the really skilled and experienced poultry keeper; the introduction of day-old chicks imported from Australia by air has not been very successful and on the whole it would appear best to concentrate on improving the local stock rather than to attempt further introductions. Some goats are found in the villages and are often a useful source of meat; a few pedigree Saanen milking goats have been imported from Australia for experimental crossing with local animals. Disease is probably an important factor limiting development of livestock husbandry in Sarawak and full scientific investigation of the matter will eventually be necessary; considerable success has already been obtained by inoculating poultry against Ranikhet disease with vaccine supplied by the Federation of Malaya Veterinary Department.

## FISHERIES

Fish forms a staple food for many of the country's inhabitants and both marine and freshwater fisheries are of considerable importance. The main source of supply is at present the shallow coastal waters and the estuaries of the larger rivers; these waters are mainly worked by Malay, Melanau and Chinese (Henghua) fishermen. A surplus of certain varieties occurs and in 1952 exports of all types of fresh fish totalled 1,045 piculs valued at \$75,190. Production of certain types of fish is insufficient to meet local needs and imports of dried, salted and canned fish in 1952 totalled 43,000 piculs valued at \$2,950,000.



The fishing methods used along the coasts may appear crude to the casual observer but anyone acquainted with sea fishing is soon impressed by the simplicity, ingenuity and suitability for local conditions of the fish catching contrivances employed. The fishermen display considerable skill and a high standard of seamanship.

A survey of local sea fisheries was recently completed; whilst the results have confirmed that there are not nearly such large concentrations of fish in Sarawak waters as are found in the famous fishing grounds of temperate waters they do suggest that some further experiments of a practical nature will be worthwhile and may eventually lead to far greater quantities of good quality fish being available in Sarawak and even to increased exports. A Master Fisherman who took part in the survey has now been re-engaged and will undertake these experiments.

Improvements in the transport, marketing and distribution systems are possible and it is hoped to devote more attention in future to these aspects of the industry perhaps as subjects for co-operative development.

Conditions are generally suitable for freshwater fish farming and some Chinese farmers successfully obtain large yields of fish (mainly carp) but unfortunately some of the most important species do not breed in Sarawak and fry has to be imported. *Tilapia mossambica* has recently been introduced from Malaya and shows considerable promise as it breeds and fattens readily under Sarawak conditions and finds favour in the local markets.

Recent investigations suggest that the rate of breeding and of growth of small edible indigenous fish in the padi fields and small streams can be increased by simple methods; feeding at selected points seems to increase breeding and rate of growth but it does not appear to be essential to the existence of the fish.

#### FORESTRY

Natural forest still covers some 34,000 square miles, or approximately 72% of the total land area of Sarawak. Except for a relatively small and commercially unimportant area of Moss Forest on the tops of the higher hills, virtually the whole of this natural vegetation is classed as Lowland Tropical Rain Forest. It consists almost entirely of evergreen trees and is generally dominated by species of one botanical family, the Dipterocarpaceae, but it is nevertheless very varied; it is estimated that the number of indigenous tree species, many of which are still unknown, exceeds 2,500, and over 100 of these may occur on a single acre; but not more than about one-tenth of them are important as timber producers. For the working of timber, much of the forest is still inaccessible but, if the internal communications of the country can be improved, most of it is potentially productive.



The Lowland Tropical Rain Forest is divided into a number of distinctive types, dependent mainly on difference in soil. The principal types are described below :—

#### Mangrove Swamps

These are tidal swamps situated in sheltered places in the estuaries of the larger rivers, the most important being the Sarawak, Rejang and Trusan. The total area is estimated at 460 square miles but only about half of this is true mangrove forest of good quality. The remainder is *nipah* palm or poor forest in the drier parts of the swamps. Mangrove is of little importance as a timber producer, but a valuable source of firewood, charcoal and cutch. The *nipah* palm provides sugar and tnatoh.

#### Peat-swamp Forest

The greater part of the coastal belt is swampy land with a deep peat soil, extending inland for as much as 50 miles in places and covering about 6,000 square miles. About 5,770 square miles of this is still forest of a very valuable type which, because of its accessibility and the quality of some of its timbers, such as *ramin*, now form the chief source of Sarawak's timber supplies. Various distinct sub-types of swamp forest occur. Of these, the most important is Mixed Swamp Forest, in which *ramin* is often the principal tree. Another very distinctive sub-type is *alan* forest in which *Shorea albida* often occurs in almost pure stands; this sub-type is estimated to cover a total area of some 800 square miles.

#### "Kerangas" or "Heath Forest"

This type of vegetation occurs on areas of very poor, acid podsol soils, scattered throughout the country and probably covering several thousand square miles. Much of this forest is of poor quality and even in the better parts the trees are usually of relatively small size but the forests are often of considerable value. In places there are almost pure stands of *ru ronang* (*Casuarina sumatrana*) which provides high quality fuel; and there are also very rich stands of the conifers *bindang* and *sempilor* not otherwise available except on steep and usually inaccessible hills. Where shifting cultivation is widespread, the only forests left are of the *kerangas* type, the soil being too poor for agriculture, and these are invaluable as the only remaining local sources of timber, firewood and other essential forest products.

#### Riparian Forest

Rather narrow strips of riverine alluvial soils, rarely half a mile in width, carry a special type of forest which appears to vary mainly in accordance with the nature and speed of the rivers. In



the upper reaches of fast-flowing streams, the riparian forest often consists chiefly of various species of *engkabang*, which are the main source of the valuable oil bearing illipe nut. Where the streams change to comparatively slow-flowing rivers the forest often changes too, and *belian* often becomes the most important tree. Riparian forest of this type is probably not more than a few hundred square miles. Much of it has been destroyed by ribbon cultivation along the rivers, and also because of the esteem in which the timber of *belian* has always been held.

#### *Other types*

The remaining forest, covering about 25,000 square miles, is found on various less specialised soils. It is very mixed, containing a multitude of species, dominated, however, by Dipterocarps such as *meranti*, *keruing* and *kapur*. It is very dense and the trees attain a fairly large size, the forest canopy being usually about 150 feet above the ground. Below this canopy formed by the larger species, there are several not very sharply defined layers of smaller, shade-bearing trees, but low, herbaceous vegetation is scanty because very little light reaches the ground. Climbing lianes and canes are common, and epiphytes such as orchids grow on the higher branches of the trees.

At the end of 1952, the Forest Department comprised 119 officers of all ranks, including six members of the Colonial Forest Service. The administration is organised on a territorial basis, with an Assistant Conservator or Assistant Forest Officer directly responsible to the Conservator, in charge of each Division. The First and Second Administrative Divisions form one forest charge; the Fourth Administrative Division is divided into two, Miri and Bintulu; and the Assistant Conservator, Fifth Division is also State Forest Officer, Brunei. One Assistant Conservator devotes his whole time to research and the training of field staff.

The principal tasks of the Forest Department at present, apart from the normal routine of general control of exploitation, are the constitution of an adequate, permanent forest estate for both protective and productive purposes, an inventory of forest resources, and the organisation of the management of the permanent timber forests in accordance with the principal of sustained yield. A programme for the first of these objectives has been laid down in the Forestry Development Plan, and progress is satisfactory. During the year, 1,135 square miles of new permanent forests were constituted, and their total area is now 7,506 square miles or 15.9% of the land area of the country; the constitution of a further 2,407 square miles of permanent forest was in progress at the end of the year.

The inventory of forest resources is being carried out by a



variety of methods. In some parts of the country, particularly in the mangrove and peat-swamps, the work is greatly facilitated by aerial photographs, on which the principal forest types can be easily detected; all that is then required is mapping from the photographs with adequate ground checks, and growing stock is assessed by random sampling in each of the forest sub-types. In the inland forests, on the other hand, the work has, up to the present, been done almost entirely by random or systematic sampling on the ground, as the forest types are usually less well defined on the photographs and the absence of numerous clear reference points often makes accurate mapping difficult. A close study of photographs made during the year indicates that not only the principal forest types but also various quality classes in each type may be revealed even on small-scale photographs, provided they are of good quality. When accurate topographical maps to which photographs can be tied become available, it should be possible to apply the methods now used in the swamps to inland forests as well. This will save a great deal of arduous and expensive field work, and also provide more accurate results; but adequate ground survey will always be necessary as very few tree species can be recognised from the air.

A special and difficult problem is an assessment of remaining supplies of *belian*, which is becoming very scarce in accessible places. The tree cannot be recognised from the air, and it usually occurs in rather small, scattered pockets of riparian forest which are not easy to locate. Future policy with reference to this remarkably strong and durable timber is still doubtful and depends on the result of the survey now in progress.

During 1952, forest inventory surveys, in areas hitherto unexamined, covered 124 square miles of permanent forest; the total now covered by these surveys is 1,056 square miles.

Once an inventory and adequate stock-map of an accessible and productive forest have been made, a working plan can be prepared and the timber worked on a basis of sustained yield. Up to the end of 1951, working plans covered only 2 square miles of the permanent forests of the country; but the working of a further 82 square miles was planned in 1952, and plans covering 490 square miles were in course of preparation at the end of the year.

Timber production is mainly in the hands of British, Australian and Chinese firms, and the bulk of the produce is exported, local demand being rather small and erratic. By the end of 1952 there were 47 major sawmills operating in the country as compared with 44 in 1951; they are operated under licence from the Forest Department, whose main concern is to ensure that they are efficiently run and that they have sources of timber supply sufficient to afford them a reasonably long life.



In 1952 the total outturn of timber was 10,727 tons of 50 cubic feet sawn and 180,889 tons of 50 Hoppus feet of logs, representing an increase of 84% over the total cut in 1951. Towards the end of the year the local demand for timber slumped, but exports continued to increase and apparently paid little attention to a world slump in tropical hardwoods that occurred about the middle of the year. The total quantity exported was 28,088 cubic tons sawn and 71,638 Hoppus tons of logs, an increase of 83% over exports in 1951. The percentage of sawn timber exported was 44% of the total cut in terms of round timber, as compared with 43% in 1951. The principal importing countries were Great Britain, Hong Kong and various parts of Borneo, in that order; and smaller quantities were sent to Australia, Singapore, South Africa, Japan, Holland, and Germany.

*Ramin* made up 51% of total timber exports. This timber can now be regarded as firmly established on several high grade markets such as Great Britain and appears to be holding its own in competition with certain favoured and rather similar timbers such as European Beech. The tree, however, offers some difficult silvicultural problems, and in any case in the very mixed forests of Sarawak it is desirable that the exploitation of as many species as possible should be encouraged. Apart from *ramin*, 24 kinds of timber were exported under their own name during the year, the most important being *meranti*, *medang jongkong*, *kapur*, and *petir*. The export of *belian* is forbidden except for Government use in Brunei, and by permission in special cases.

The declared f.o.b. value of timber exported during the year was \$8,925,910 as compared with \$4,727,834 in 1951; and that of other forest products totalled \$3,834,296 compared with \$3,823,855 in 1951, the most important minor products being wild rubbers, damar and cutch. The illipe nut crop again failed.

For basic forestry research, Sarawak depends mainly on the Forest Research Institute of the Federation of Malaya, towards which it contributes a small sum annually, but a considerable amount of work must necessarily be done locally. The most urgent need is for a more complete knowledge of the tree species and of the timbers that they produce. The year 1952 showed a marked improvement in the volume of botanical work carried out, particularly in the swamp forests, but much remains to be done. The Forest Department is also concerned with trial plantings on poor or degraded soils, and experiments with various species, notably mahogany and *durian*, were continued.

The following statement gives comparative figures of direct forest revenue and expenditure for the years 1951-1952.



		1951.	1952.
Revenue	...	\$ 486,773	\$ 856,571
Expenditure	...	238,907	314,508
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus	...	\$ 247,826	\$ 542,063

The expenditure for 1952 quoted above includes \$57,434 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Export duties on minor forest produce, collected by the Department of Trade and Customs, amounted to \$373,253, as compared with 354,999 in 1951. The chief contributors towards this revenue were *getah*, *jelutong* and *damar*.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINING

It is probable that for about a thousand years minerals have been worked in Borneo, first gold and diamonds, then antimony, mercury and coal, later oil. Mining has always been important to the life of the region, and today plays a prominent part in the region's economy. Between 1850 and 1900 an energetic search was made for mineral deposits, particularly coal, also antimony, mercury and gold. Investigations were made by individuals employed by private concerns as well as by the State Government, but little of the information resulting from the work was published, and records available are insufficient for assessing the full extent of the investigations. But after the discovery, in 1823, that antimony ore had a ready market, minerals figured prominently in the economy. Until about 1885, antimony ore was the most important mineral produced and often the leading export. Mercury was the leading mineral product for five of the six years between 1874 and 1879, but after 1887 output declined and ten years later was negligible. Coal was the main mineral export between 1889 and 1898, after which gold took its place and headed the list continuously from 1899 until 1920. From this time onwards oil has been the leading mineral export.



## PAST SARAWAK MINERAL EXPORTS

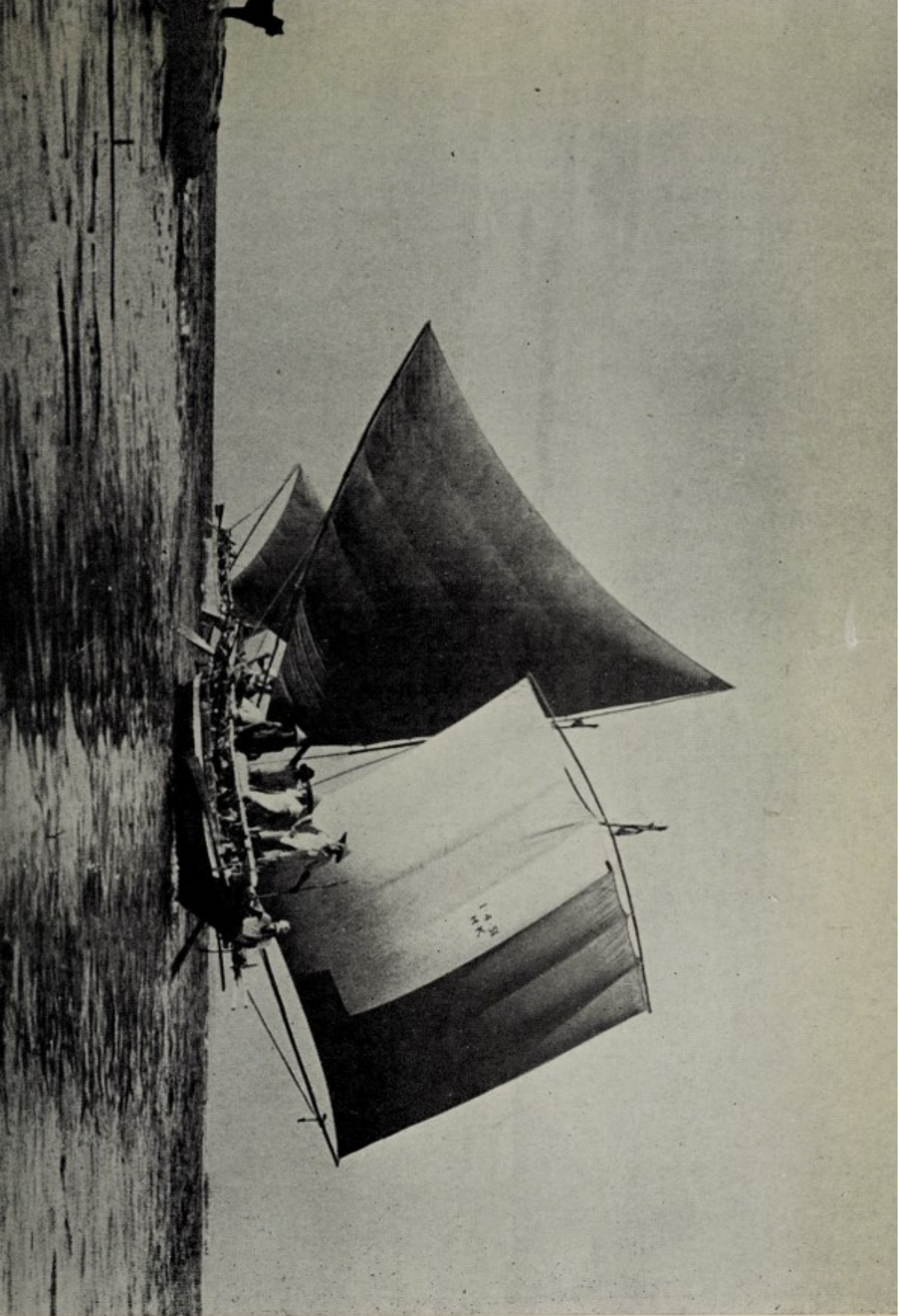
Year	Value of Sarawak produce exported	Value of mineral exports	Percentage of mineral exports to exports of Sarawak produce	Mineral royalties paid to the Sarawak Government	Mineral exports in their order of value; the most valuable export is shown first
1868	N.A.	38,001	—	N.A.	antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds
1878	809,325	83,086	10	13,333	antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds
1888	1,322,325	118,915	9	8,889	antimony, coal, quicksilver, gold
1898	3,089,017	323,230	10	10,177	coal, antimony, gold, quicksilver
1908	5,732,723	1,177,266	21	77,367	gold, coal, antimony, quicksilver
1918	9,221,459	N.A.	—	98,109	gold, oil, coal
1928	53,302,340	39,208,846	74	770,835	oil
1938	23,244,666	12,482,134	54	387,636	oil, gold, silver
1948	166,023,615	111,820,069	67	94,448	oil†, gold, antimony

All values are given in Sarawak dollars, fixed at 2s.4d sterling since 1906

N. A. = not available

† Most of the oil exported from Sarawak during 1948 was produced in Brunei

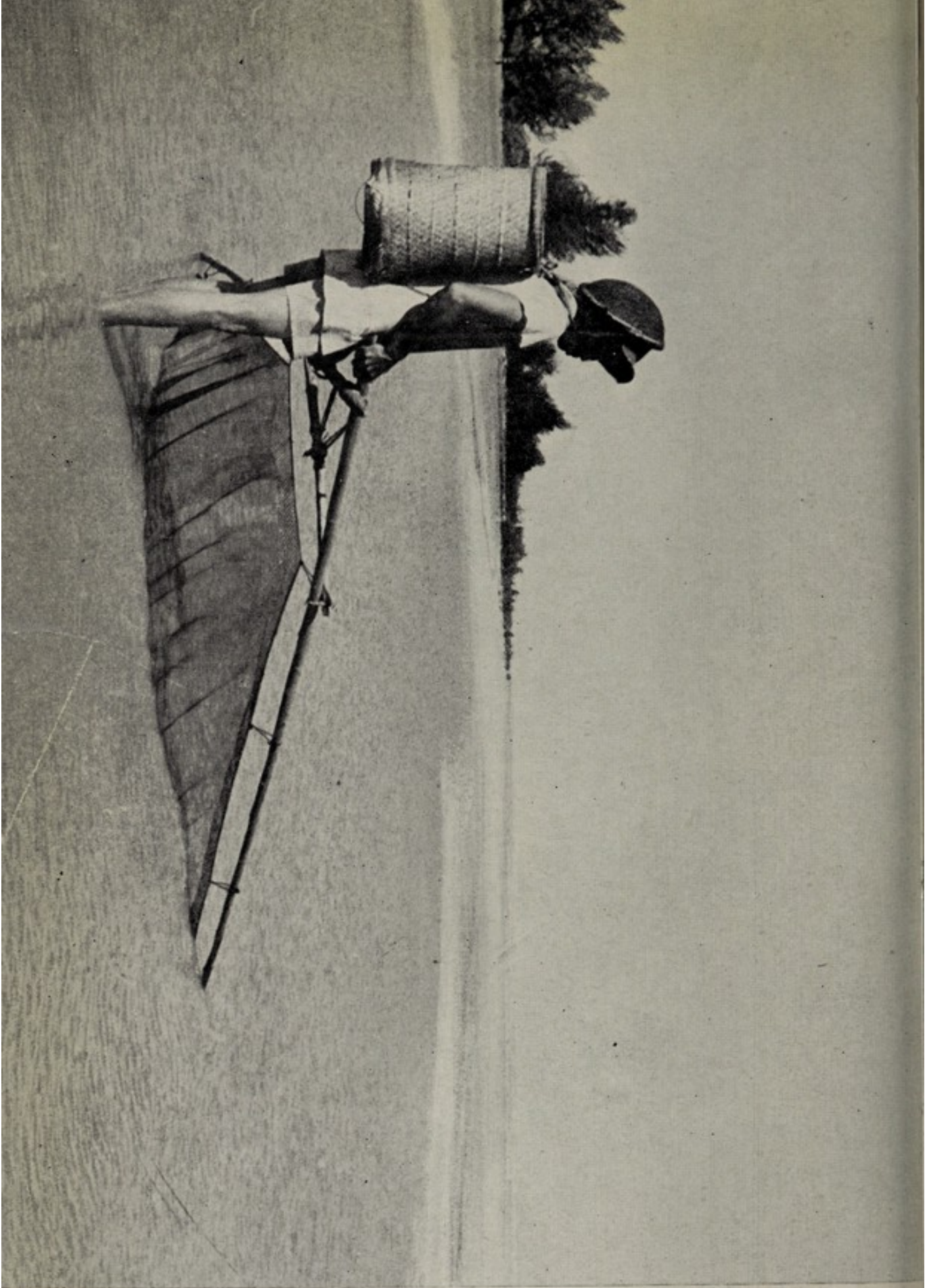




Fisheries—a 'barong' or 'panau' boat entering the Mukah river on return from the fishing grounds



Melanau Islam from  
Kampung Judan, Mu-  
kah, fishing for  
shrimps and small fish  
at low water near Oya





## MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1952

The output of minerals and mineral products during 1952 consisted of oil, gold, phosphate, bricks and tiles, lime and stone. Their estimated value was \$ 3,525,393 and over \$ 177,635 was paid as direct revenue in royalties and mining rents. The value of mineral exports was \$ 307,188,374 and consisted of oil and gold. Most of this oil came from Brunei, was piped to Sarawak, and some of it treated at the Lutong Refinery; exports comprised crude oil, gasoline, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, diesel fuel and diesel fuel bunkers. The oil industry, a Shell Group organisation, operates on a large scale using modern methods. The other mineral industries are mainly small Chinese concerns; gold mines in operation number 5 and are situated in the Upper Sarawak District; building materials are produced at the three main towns, Kuching, Sibu and Miri.

Mining leases in 1952 were 25 and covered 3,939 acres; this is the only land in the country reserved for mining. Sarawak Oilfields Limited holds general oil rights over the whole country. During 1952 the search for oil continued. Prospecting for bauxite by the British Aluminium Company Limited took place during the early part of the year in the Third Division, but stopped before the end of the year. Gold prospecting was mainly limited to the Upper Sarawak District where tests were made by the Borneo Company Limited and a few local Chinese prospectors. A table of the 1952 mineral output is given at the end of this chapter.

*Oil*

Sarawak has long been a producer of oil, and production from the Miri field in 1952 totalled 359,194 barrels, valued at \$2,566,682; this was obtained from 132 pumping wells. The production of oil in Sarawak resulted from geological investigations started in 1909 on behalf of the Royal Dutch-Shell Group. The first shipment was made in April, 1913, and production has since been continuous, the total up to December, 1952 being 72,393,844 U.S. barrels—this includes the production estimated to have been made during the enemy occupation of the country. Over \$10,000,000 in direct royalties has been paid to the Government of Sarawak. Although Miri production is decreasing, the search for new oilfields is being energetically carried out over a wide area of Sarawak.

During 1952 field expeditions worked at widely separated localities in Sarawak, building up the geological and geophysical information needed before expensive exploratory wildcat holes are drilled.

Oil from British Borneo is exported via Lutong in Sarawak, and 4,952,045 long tons valued at \$307,097,941 were shipped; most was crude oil but in addition gasoline, diesel oil, kerosene, gas oil and fuel oil were exported. The Lutong Refinery output in United States barrels during 1952 was gasoline 4,000,200;



kerosene 2, 00; gas oil 93,200; diesel fuel 8,655,700; and fuel oil 2,799,700.

### *Gold*

Sarawak gold production from 1864 to 1951 was 1,211,442 fine ounces, bringing the Government a direct revenue of over \$2,500,000 in royalties, rent and licence fees. The peak period of production followed the introduction of scientific mining methods and the cyanide process by the Borneo Company Limited in 1899, and between then and 1922, nearly 1,000,000 fine ounces were produced; since then work has been confined to small-scale operations by Chinese miners. The largest recent output was 1,523 fine ounces in 1949. The Upper Sarawak gold field has been the source of practically all the gold produced and has often been prospected in the past. Whether it can regain its former importance is doubtful.

The gold export in 1952 was 898 fine ounces valued at \$90,433. Five small Chinese mines operating in Upper Sarawak produced 843 fine ounces; in 1951 six mines were working and 931 fine ounces were obtained.

### *Phosphate*

In the form of guano phosphate occurs in many of the limestone caves in Sarawak. It is a resource of importance, being a valuable fertiliser in a region where agriculture is a main occupation, and much of the soil poor. The geological survey department has therefore investigated the deposits by mapping the caves and pitting the guano. Phosphate is worked on a small scale for local use at a number of places; the largest deposits, at Niah caves, are worked under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture.

Phosphate production during 1952 of 696 long tons was the highest yet obtained: the value was \$93,600 and a royalty of \$13,698 was paid to Government. Deposits containing about 2,000 tons of guano have been examined at Gunong Staat, south of Kuching, and small amounts have been found in caves at Gunong Selabor, south of Serian.

The Niah caves are estimated to contain about 29,000 tons of phosphate; they consist of about two miles of explored passages and cover an area of about 24 acres. The phosphate deposits originate from the accumulation, during thousands of years, of bat and swift droppings and insect remains; reaction with limestone has resulted in the formation of rock phosphate. The bulk of the guano is dry to slightly damp, although at a few localities it is saturated with water. Guano more than six inches in thickness covers about 150,000 square feet in the caves; the average depth of the main occurrences is 11 feet. The greatest depth of phosphate found was 29 feet.



### *Coal*

The best known coal deposits are at Sadong, the Silantek-Abok area, and in the Bintulu and Mukah districts. Certain deposits are reported to contain coal of good quality, but development has been hindered by inaccessibility, competition from coal exported from Europe, and the small market in the country itself.

A geological survey has been made in the Silantek area of west Sarawak where coal occurs. The survey attempted to determine whether the good quality coal, known to be present in these deposits, was available in sufficient quantities to repay mining. Work at Silantek indicates that about 3,500,000 tons might be mined and there are possibilities of a larger tonnage. A programme for testing the estimate of the tonnage of coal has been prepared. In view of the growing industrialization of Australia and the Far East, and the possible development of iron ore deposits in neighbouring territories, there might in the future be a regional market for coals with coking qualities.

### *Antimony*

The main deposits of antimony ore are in Upper Sarawak and consist mostly of the sulphide, stibnite; there was no recorded mining of this mineral during 1952.

### *Mercury*

Mercury occurs mainly as the sulphide, cinnabar, but small amounts of the metal itself have been recorded: no ore was worked during 1952.

### *Building Materials and Roadstone*

Building materials produced comprise brick, tiles, lime, stone, and gravel; the value of the 1952 output is estimated at \$774,678. The industry is mainly run by Sarawak Chinese and operates on a small scale serving local requirements round Kuching, Sibü and Miri. Should the demand become larger, the output can be increased. Kuching, in the most developed part of the country, had the largest and most varied production of constructional materials. Bricks totalled 1,001,500; tiles numbered 229,000 valued at \$30,100 and the lime output was 1,637 long tons estimated to be worth \$165,000. The clay and sand used for brick and tile manufacture came from the valley of the Sarawak River, and the limestone used for making lime from Gunong Staat. Building materials were also produced at the other two main population centres of Sibü and Miri. In the Third Division Sibü district had a production of 300,000 clay bricks valued at \$45,000, kilns being operated at Binatang, Durin and Sungai Sedik; in 1951 the production of clay bricks was 775,000 but decreased in 1952 owing to clay bricks



rising in price, and concrete bricks being used instead. Gravel worked in the Third Division totalled 14,000 cubic yards valued at \$164,000. At Miri 575,500 bricks were produced by two companies, 980 tons of local clay and 103 tons of sea sand were used. The estimated average values during 1952 were as follows: clay bricks were \$110 per thousand in Kuching, and \$150 in Sibuan; tiles \$140 per thousand and lime \$6 per pikul (16.8 pikuls equal 1 long ton).

Stone production recorded in 1952 was 43,000 cubic yards with an estimated value of \$200,000. Most of the stone was used for road construction and road repairs.

Stone supplies are a difficulty over most of Sarawak, but fortunately in the west there are occurrences of accessible good quality rock. Geological investigations were made to find stone that could be readily quarried and was accessible for water transport. At Sebuyau on the west coast such an occurrence has been found and millions of tons of good quality rock are available and accessible. Sebuyau hill is built of granite and rises to 555 feet; here are excellent quarry sites; it is situated by a river about half a mile from the sea, and most of the usual coastal shipping difficulties appear to be absent. The Government proposes to work this stone to supply the growing towns of Sibuan, Sarikei and Bintang in the Rejang estuary.

#### *Aluminium ore*

First discovered in 1949 in West Sarawak, this was prospected up to 1952 by geologists and mining engineers of the British Aluminium Company Limited. In the Sematan area, where bauxite was first found, about 5,500,000 tons of ore are possibly worth working. This occurs in three deposits; Munggu Belian, Bukit Gebong and Tanjong Serabang.



## SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1952

MINERAL	PRODUCTION	REMARKS
Oil	359,194 United States barrels	Valued at \$2,566,682; royalty estimated at \$155,331 Oil exports from Sarawak totalled 4,952,045 long tons valued at \$307,097,941 and included gasoline, diesel, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, and crude oil. Most of this oil was produced in Brunei but piped to Sarawak and some of it treated at Lutong Refinery before being exported
Gold	843 fine ounces	Valued at \$90,433; a royalty of \$4,522 was collected, and mining rents yielded \$4,084. The output came from 5 mines in Upper Sarawak
Phosphate	696 long tons	Valued at \$93,600; royalty paid was \$13,698. Extracted from Niah Caves, Bukit Subis, Fourth Division
Bricks & Tiles	1,858,500 bricks 229,000 tiles	Estimated value of bricks made is \$215,578 and of tiles \$30,100. The output of 4 concerns at Kuching was 1,001,500 bricks; around Sibu 3 companies produced 300,000 clay bricks, and at Miri 2 companies made 557,000 bricks
Lime	1,637 long tons	Estimated value \$165,000. Made in the Kuching area by Chop Mong Soon, Ban Hin Company, and Swee Huat Seng
Stone	43,000 cubic yards	Estimated value approximately \$200,000. This stone, produced in the First Division, came mostly from the 7th mile quarry: small amounts came from workings at the 18th and 28th miles and at Bau. Only negligible quantities of stone were worked elsewhere in Sarawak.
Gravel	14,000 cubic yards	Estimated value \$164,000. This gravel was worked in the Third Division from the Rejang valley

Values are in Straits dollars, \$1 being worth 2s. 4d.



## Chapter IX

### SOCIAL SERVICES

#### EDUCATION

##### *General and Administration*

The senior staff approved for the Education Department at the beginning of 1952 consisted of a Director, a Deputy Director and fifteen Education Officers. During the year an additional post of Education Officer was created and filled in December by the secondment of an officer from Hong Kong. The vacancy for an Education Officer for duty in the Second Division was filled by the arrival of an officer in October. A woman Education Officer was appointed to the staff of the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit. At the end of the year four vacancies for men Education Officers and one vacancy for a woman Education Officer remained unfilled.

From the beginning of 1952 five of the more able and experienced of the trained teachers, Grade IIIA, acted as Group Supervisors and were able to visit and help vernacular primary schools in their areas.

The standard of staffing in all types of school continued to improve. Four of the staff of the Batu Lintang Training Centre and School successfully passed their examinations and were certificated as Grade IIA teachers. The third output of certificated teachers, Grade IIIA, from the Centre, numbering 30 (not including 10 Brunei students) benefited rural primary schools under the management of Government, Local Authorities, Missions and Private Committees. There was a small but important increase in the number of qualified and experienced staff in the secondary sections of the urban Mission Schools.

A new group of student teachers was admitted in 1952 to the Batu Lintang Training Centre for training as Grade IIA teachers, with a minimum academic qualification of Form III or its Chinese equivalent, for service in Mission or Chinese Schools. These students will become teachers of general subjects in urban Mission Schools and teachers of English in Chinese Schools.

The problem of providing professional training for Chinese teachers has not yet been solved but it is hoped that the course at Batu Lintang will at least begin to meet the demand for English teachers in these schools.

The usual Vacation Course for Chinese Teachers in the Third Division was held at Sibul in June and attracted about a hundred



young teachers. For the first time the subject of Physical Training and Games was introduced and a demonstration class of children was used in illustrating English teaching. A short course for Local Authority teachers in the Simanggang area was organised by the Group Supervisor of Schools during the December holiday.

There was a further increase in the number of children attending school in 1952. The following table shows how the total enrolment has risen during recent years:-

1941	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
22,344	33,464	35,628	39,656	42,284	45,573

The continued expansion during 1952 was satisfactory especially as it occurred over a period when prices of the main primary products dropped. Sustained enthusiasm for education was most marked among the urban populations and those sections of the community which for many years have been aware of the value of literacy. In rural areas the situation among the indigenous peoples was less encouraging. The number of Malay and other indigenous children attending school at the end of 1952 was approximately 12,000. The figure in 1948 was 8,600. In view of the considerable number of schools that have been opened in these areas during the period concerned, and the efforts that have been made to train teachers for these schools, the increase is disappointingly small.

The demand for education, which was reported to be wide-spread among the indigenous peoples in the years immediately following the Liberation, has not proved to be a sustained keenness. After an initial effort during which a school is constructed, and opened with an enrolment which includes a large proportion of over-age pupils, enthusiasm in too many cases begins to weaken.

The over-age pupils, after acquiring a basic minimum of literacy, turn their attention to adult occupations and leave the school. Parents do not appreciate the need for regular attendance and remove their children for long periods to assist them in farming operations. In some cases it is found that with the removal of the over-age pupils there are not enough children reaching school age each year to maintain a reasonable enrolment.

Progress however is being made, if more slowly than was hoped. The 12,000 Malay and other indigenous children now in school are of more suitable age, and in most cases being better taught, than the 8,600 children who were in schools in 1948. This improvement is particularly noticeable in the annual intakes from rural schools into the post-primary classes at Batu Lintang: each year the pupils admitted have been younger in age and of higher academic standard.

Secondary education in both English and Chinese sections continued to expand. The 248 entries from the Kuching and Sibü Mission



Schools for the Cambridge Examinations at the end of 1952 were more than double the number of the previous year. For the first time a few candidates attempted individual subjects in the Higher School Certificate Examination and all School Certificate candidates were for the first time examined in Oral English. The boarding hostels at these schools continued to make improvements, with better organisation for study and recreation outside classroom hours.

Increased attention is now being paid to the teaching of General Science in the Boys' Schools and to Domestic Science in the Girls' Schools. In November the Secretary of State approved a grant of \$150,000 (£17,500) under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for a scheme of grants-in-aid, on a 50% basis, towards the cost of erecting and equipping science laboratories for the secondary forms of selected Aided Schools. The scheme is limited at the present stage to the three schools which are now in a position to establish a "Senior Secondary Course".

In October approval was received from the Secretary of State for a grant of \$80,000 (£9,334) from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for a similar scheme of assistance on a 50% basis towards the capital expenditure of erecting and equipping Domestic Science Rooms in selected Aided Girls' Schools. The scheme is at present limited to assisting four schools with the establishment of "Junior Secondary" Courses in Domestic Science.

The demand for secondary education in the Chinese school system increased and plans were prepared for new Junior Middle Schools at Sibü and Miri, and a Senior Middle School at Sarikei. Both Middle and Primary Chinese schools continued to pay attention to the important need to improve the teaching of English. To encourage and assist managements to employ teachers of English, a special grant from Central Government Funds was introduced during the year in respect of the salaries of these teachers in Aided Chinese Schools. The Sibü District Councils applied the same scheme to the Chinese schools which they aided.

The total increase in the number of girls at school was over 2,000. This brought the percentage of girls in school from 31 per cent of the total enrolment in 1951 to 34 per cent in 1952. As was to be expected, the increase was mostly in the Chinese school system. The number of girls of the indigenous peoples attending school is still small. This is partly due to the distances which separate the longhouses and to the understandable reluctance of those parents who live far from the school to send their daughters to live away from home.

Although the number of girls of all races who continue their education into the secondary forms is still far too low, there was a marked increase in the numbers enrolled in these forms during 1952. In the Mission English schools however very few girls continue their



education after they have obtained a Form III Certificate, which is the minimum qualification for entry into most branches of Government service or into business employment. In consequence the numbers taking the Cambridge examinations remains low and those professions which require educated women are seriously handicapped.

At the end of the year there were some 30 Sarawak boys from all Divisions undergoing training at the Trade Schools in Seria, by the kind co-operation of the British Malayan Petroleum Company. The Revised Development Plan includes sums of considerable magnitude for the development of Trade, Technical and Commercial Education; but the extent to which the programme can be implemented in the near future will be mainly governed by the practicability of recruiting qualified instructors.

At the beginning of the year responsibility for primary education in the Sibü area was handed over to two multi-racial Councils. The Sibü Urban District Council became responsible for one former Government School, three Mission-Aided English schools and nine aided Chinese-language schools under the management of Mission bodies or private committees. The Rural District Council became responsible for six schools formerly controlled by the Sibü Dayak Local Authority and twenty-six Aided Chinese schools. The Councils showed a vigorous and broadminded spirit in tackling the complex problems involved in the control and financing of these schools.

Communist agencies continued their efforts to infiltrate into Chinese schools. At a small number of schools there was evidence that groups of teachers and senior pupils with guidance from persons outside the school, were introducing communist doctrine and instigating acts of indiscipline towards the school authorities.

Action against this state of affairs proceeded on two lines. First, prompt action was taken against the subversive elements. Registration as new teachers was refused to some applicants whose school careers had been unsatisfactory. It was also necessary to require that some over-age pupils, who had acted as ring-leaders, should leave school. Secondly, efforts were made to impress upon parents a greater sense of responsibility for the character and conduct of their children; school managements were urged to make arrangements for the supervision of pupils from outstations and managements and other authorities were encouraged to provide recreation and training outside the hours of classroom study.

The Sibü Urban District Council responded by inaugurating a successful series of inter-community sporting and dramatic competitions between the various schools within the area. These constructive efforts to improve the discipline and tone of Chinese schools and to guide managements in problems of staff and control were likely to be further strengthened by the appointment in



December of a Chinese Education Officer on secondment from Hong Kong.

Any major improvement in the Chinese schools of this region will require the introduction of text-books more suitable than those now generally in use. During the year a Chinese Textbook Committee, composed of official members of the Governments of the Federation of Malaya, and of Singapore, and unofficial members representing various teachers associations, was formed in Malaya to plan the production of the best possible textbooks for Chinese schools in Malaya and Singapore. Sarawak is greatly interested in the work of this committee and hopes to be closely associated with the production of the textbooks in order to ensure that they contain material which makes them suitable for use in the Chinese schools of Sarawak.

Fifteen scholarships or fellowships for further education and training overseas were awarded during the year under schemes promoted by the Governments of Sarawak, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, in some cases in co-operation with UNESCO, and by the World Health Organisation. Since the end of the war more than seventy students have been sent overseas, under various scholarship schemes, on courses of training covering thirty different subjects.

Sarawak continued to maintain close and cordial relationships with the University of Malaya and made a small contribution towards the University's annual expenditure. During 1952 three Sarawak students qualified for degrees in Medicine and a further two for degrees in Arts.

Two arithmetic books in the Sea Dayak language were published during the year. A collection of Land Dayak folk-stories was published under arrangements made by the Anglican Mission, to serve as a reader for primary schools. Various new vernacular text-books produced in the Federation of Malaya were introduced into Malay Schools.

#### *Finance:*

The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from official funds on educational services:

	1940	1951	1952 (estimate)
Central Government Funds	\$166,881	578,912	1,094,303
Local Authority Funds	nil	119,048	248,675
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	nil	174,875	234,742
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$166,881</b>	<b>\$872,835</b>	<b>\$1,577,720</b>
	<b>£ 19,469</b>	<b>£101,847</b>	<b>£ 184,067</b>



It was estimated that during 1952 the Mission Authorities spent approximately \$713,000 (£83,183) and the Management of Chinese schools some \$2,500,000 (£291,667) on educational services. These amounts were mainly derived from school-fees and subscriptions and were additional to grants-in-aid from Government or Local Authority Funds. The figures quoted above do not take into account the value of contributions made by school committees, in money or in materials, for the construction and maintenance of school buildings and furniture in rural areas.

### *Government Schools*

At the end of 1952 there were 41 Government Schools including the Batu Lintang School, staffed by 103 teachers and with 3,423 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1951 were 45 schools with 105 teachers and 3,641 pupils. Three Government Schools were taken over by Local Authorities during the year, and in one town a Boys' School and a Girls' School were combined into a single school. Enrolments in most schools showed little change from the previous year.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. During 1952 new buildings were erected by the local people at three schools. Plans were being made, and materials and money collected, at three other schools which were expected to be rebuilt in 1953.

The teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. Pupils are required to provide their own stationery. School Committees with advisory powers function at a number of these schools.

No fees are charged in Government Schools. In this respect these schools differ from most Local Authority Schools, Private Schools and other types of school in Sarawak. For some time it had been thought that this differentiation was unjustifiable and that it was not good for the self-respect of the people concerned to continue to receive free a service for which others had to pay.

There are reasons also for thinking that the introduction of fees will eventually lead to improvements in these schools, since it appears that the payment of fees leads to a greater appreciation of the value of education and therefore to better support from parents. These matters were discussed at length with leaders of the people who gave general support to the proposal to introduce fees in Government Schools in 1953. A rate of fees was fixed within the means of the great majority of the parents concerned and a system of remissions was approved for necessitous cases. The Government Schools will be re-named 'District Schools' in 1953.

With the exception of the Batu Lintang School and of one school in Kuching at which post-primary classes have been established, all



these schools cater for the primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction. There is now a strong demand for the teaching of English. This has been met by the engagement of English-speaking teachers in a few of the larger schools, and by the inclusion of English in the curriculum of the Teacher Training Centre. By the end of 1952 trained teachers from the Centre who had been posted to Government Primary Schools numbered 31 and most of these were able to introduce the teaching of English as a subject.

At the Government School at Batu Lintang, which is run in conjunction with the Teacher Training Centre, post-primary academic courses were held for boys who had completed the primary course in vernacular schools. 25 new pupils were admitted at the beginning of 1952, bringing the total in these classes to 71, including 12 from Brunei.

#### *Local Authority Schools*

The following table shows the growth of the Local Authority School system since its inception at the beginning of 1948.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
No. of Schools	18	40	67	74	94
No. of Teachers	21	50	77	90	113
No. of Pupils	804	1,625	2,545	2,868	3,428

The increase in the number of schools during 1952 does not in fact represent any remarkable expansion of education in the areas concerned. Six of the twenty additional schools were schools already in existence which Local Authorities took over from Government or from Private Committees. Of the remaining fourteen schools, some had been opened in 1951 but had not been included in statistical returns. Several schools had to close during the year owing to lack of pupils.

Although holidays were fixed at each school to meet the needs of farming seasons and religious celebrations, attendance was still far from satisfactory. The proportion of pupils who remain in school for more than two years is small. This is partly due to the fact that many pupils are beyond the proper age on admission. Parents are unwilling to send young children to school when it necessitates a long daily journey or the making of arrangements for their children to board near the school during term time.

The siting of schools among the scattered rural population of Sarawak presents many problems. Supervision is still far from adequate. It has not yet been possible to recruit an Education Officer for the Fourth Division; but the appointment of an officer for the Second Division, and of 5 Group Supervisors should effect considerable improvement.

Probably the greatest single factor accounting for the slowness



of progress is lack of sufficient support from parents and school committees. It may take several years before some of the rural peoples begin to appreciate the benefits of education and to understand the sacrifices necessary.

In an attempt to improve the rate of progress, several local authorities are now concerning themselves with Education Rules and particularly with arrangements to ensure that pupils satisfactorily complete the four-year course.

Many Local Authorities raise additional revenue for education by charging education rates, cesses or school fees. Local Authorities estimated to raise by these means more than \$39,000 during 1952.

#### *Private School or Village Committee Schools*

In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed the indigenous peoples were encouraged in the meantime to open schools under the management of committees comprising local representatives. These "Village Committee Schools" or "Private Schools" are eligible for financial assistance from Government.

There were 36 schools of this type at the end of 1952 with 49 teachers and 1,758 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1951 were 30 schools with 41 teachers and 1,408 pupils. Four Private Schools were taken over during the year by Local Authorities or Missions and a few schools ceased to function.

New Private Aided Schools established during the year included a promising number established in Malay kampongs, especially in the First Division with encouragement and assistance from the Group Supervisor of Schools. Two Private Aided Schools were established in upriver areas, one in the Kelabit country and the other among a Kayan community in the Ulu Balui, under young trained teachers who had been selected from the peoples concerned. It remains to be seen whether such schools will prosper, under young and inexperienced teachers, in areas so remote that they can be only rarely visited.

Grants from Central Government funds amounting to approximately \$11,813 (£1,378), as compared with \$7,245 (£845) were paid during the year to those schools which applied for assistance. A number of Private Schools received professional guidance from Mission representatives in the area.

#### *Mission Schools*

At the end of the year there were 71 of these schools with 218 teachers and 8,277 pupils. At the end of the previous year there were 69 schools with 263 teachers and 7,988 pupils. Of the two new schools registered in 1952, one was an existing school taken over from a Private Committee and the other was a school in the First Division which was re-opened during the year. The decrease in the number of teachers employed relates to teachers in the Chinese sections of some of these schools which have now been registered,



with their teachers, as separate Chinese Schools.

Grants from Central Government amounting to approximately \$128,620 (£16,006) were paid to Mission Schools during the year. The following table shows the grants from Central Government funds which have been paid to these schools during the last five years.

	Pupils	Grant
1948	5,743	\$ 74,500
1949	6,550	85,942
1950	7,166	93,849
1951	7,988	122,140
1952	8,277	128,620

In addition several Local Authorities gave financial assistance to Mission Primary Schools in their areas.

Provisional figures indicate that in 1952 the Authorities spent about \$30,000 (£3,500) on grants-in-aid to these schools. For the urban schools which cater mainly for the Chinese the grant from Central Government was calculated on a percentage of the salaries of approved staff while a more favourable formula was in force for the rural schools catering for the indigenous peoples. The rate of grant for rural schools employing trained teachers was increased during the year to enable managements to maintain the emoluments of these teachers at the same figure as would be paid to similar teachers in the Government Service.

In the urban schools English is the medium of instruction and these schools provide a large proportion of the entrants to the Government Service. At twelve of these schools secondary classes were provided in which 1,431 pupils were enrolled. 170 candidates from these schools entered for the Cambridge Junior School Certificate at the end of 1952. In the previous year there were 84 entrants of whom 76 were successful.

Classes for the Cambridge School Certificate were held at five schools and 80 candidates, of whom only five were girls, sat for this examination at the end of 1952. In 1951 there were 45 candidates for the School Certificate, of whom 35 were successful. For the first time there were five candidates taking single subjects for the Higher School Certificate Examination, of whom three were successful.

Some of the larger Mission Schools in urban areas made considerable extensions and improvements to their buildings. In three large schools permanent science blocks are in course of erection which will enable this subject to be taught up to the Higher School Certificate standard. One domestic science block was completed in 1952 and candidates from this Girls' School are being entered for needlework in the Cambridge Junior Certificate Examination.

More teachers with science qualifications joined the Mission School



staffs during the year. For the first time 28 boys took general science in the School Certificate Examination for 1952. Oral English was introduced into the School Certificate Examination for this year. 86 candidates (including private candidates) were examined by two Divisional Education Officers appointed by the Cambridge Syndicate.

Mission Schools in rural areas recorded some progress during the year particularly where trained teachers were employed with guidance from Mission priests. In these schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

### *Chinese Schools*

There were 226 Chinese Schools at the end of 1952, with 937 teachers and 28,668 pupils. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 216 schools with 874 teachers and 26,365 pupils. Of the ten additional schools, four were new schools, two were schools which re-opened after having temporarily closed for financial reasons in 1951, and four were Chinese-language sections of Mission Schools which during the year were registered as separate Chinese Schools.

Most Chinese Schools are controlled by committees elected annually by the local community. Funds are provided by school fees from pupils and by donations and subscriptions from Associations and individuals. "Block" grants, assessed on enrolment and efficiency, are paid to Chinese Schools on the Aided List.

In addition most of these schools qualified for a special grant in respect of teachers of English of an approved standard. Total grants amounting to approximately \$66,250 (£7,279) as compared with \$54,035 (£6,315) in 1951 were paid from Central Government funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at 51 Aided Chinese Schools with a total enrolment of 10,450 pupils. 40 Chinese Schools with an enrolment of 6,062 pupils were aided by four Local Authorities. The two Sibu District Councils paid \$24,808 (£2,894) in grants to Chinese Schools during 1952.

There were 3 Junior Middle Schools, and 10 schools, compared with 7 in the previous year, had combined Primary and Middle Departments. The three additional Middle Departments were in schools in the Third Division. A Senior Middle Course was held at two schools. At the end of 1952 there were 2,033 pupils in the Middle sections of the Chinese School system compared with 1,175 at the end of the previous year.

The Chinese "National Language", Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction in Chinese Schools in Sarawak but increased attention has been given to the teaching of English as a subject.

The Common Examinations Board of the Chinese Schools in the Third Division continued to function satisfactorily. In December Common Examinations for the Primary and Junior Middle certi-



fications for all Chinese Schools in the Third Division were successfully conducted in Sibü.

A disappointingly low proportion of teachers in this section regard teaching as a career, and the short-term contracts offered by most Boards of Management result in a feeling of insecurity amongst teachers. As a result there is little continuity in staffing at most schools as resignations and transfers are far too common a feature.

### *Teacher Training*

Teacher-training is carried on at Batu Lintang near Kuching at a Centre which serves the whole country. The staff consists of a Principal, two Assistant Principals representing the Anglican and Roman Catholic Missions, and an assistant staff composed of local teachers and two teachers on secondment from Great Britain, one with qualifications in Handwork and Physical Training and the other a woman teacher trained in Infant and Junior methods.

The co-operation of Government and Missions in training at one institution teachers for all types of school is a most important feature of the Centre, where students of many races, religions and languages have successfully developed a mutual understanding and a corporate spirit.

The Training Centre is financed under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme which expires at the end of March 1953 when the Centre will be financed solely from local funds.

All student teachers receive free board, tuition and transport, and a system of personal and family allowances ensures that any promising student can benefit from the scheme regardless of the financial circumstances of his family.

There are two courses for teachers depending on their academic standard at the time of admission. Both courses are at present of two years' duration.

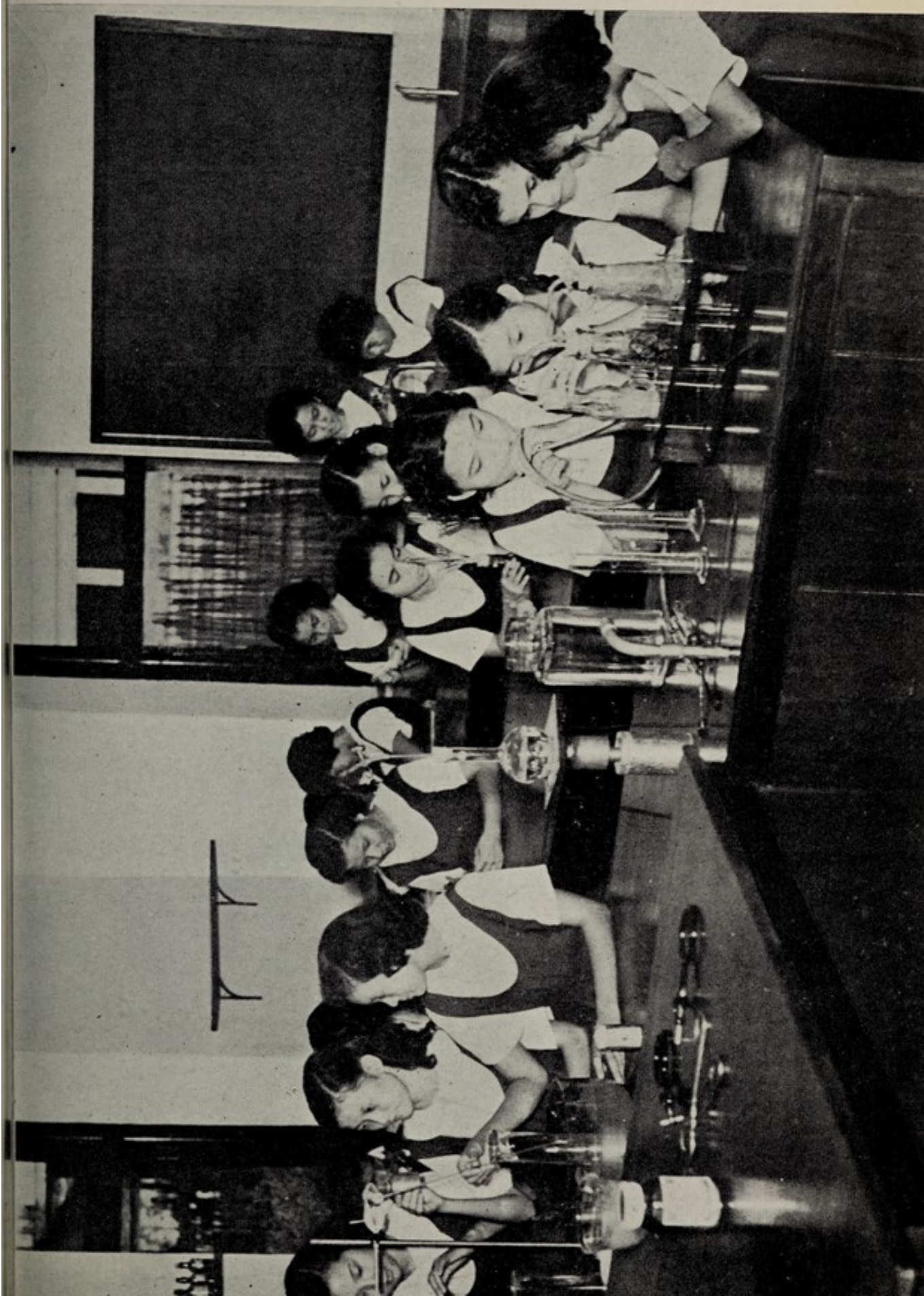
The course for the Grade IIIA Certificate caters for student-teachers with a standard of approximately Primary IV. For the Grade IIA course a minimum qualification of Form III is required.

Both courses include the study of English, for which there is a demand from all peoples, and some academic subjects, as well as a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods and of school organisation. Emphasis is also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and aspects of indigenous cultures. Religious instruction is arranged for both Christian and Muslim students and chapels are provided for different sects.

There were 87 student-teachers taking the Grade IIIA Course in 1952. At the end of the year 30 Sarawak students and 10 students from the neighbouring State of Brunei qualified for IIIA Certificates and the former were posted to Government, Local Authority, Private and Mission Schools throughout the country. Three of the Sarawak students who graduated were women. The total number of certi-



A class at a girls  
secondary school in  
Kuching





The Advancement of Education—the Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, as Chancellor of the University of Malaya, presenting a Certificate of Graduation to 'Che Ramlah binti Abang Materang of Sibu at Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre





ficated teachers who have been trained at Batu Lintang is now 181.

There was a noticeable improvement compared with previous years in the academic standard of the new students admitted to the Grade IIIA Course at the beginning of the year.

The course for the Grade IIA Certificate was initiated at the beginning of 1952 with the admission of 10 students possessing a minimum qualification of Form III or a Chinese Junior Middle Certificate. These students will eventually serve as teachers in the Mission central schools or as teachers of English in Chinese schools. Towards the end of the year the number of applicants for this course gave promise both of larger intake and of a better academic standard on entry.

Reports on the work of trained teachers from the Centre continue to be encouraging. Group Supervisors have undoubtedly helped many of these young teachers in their varied problems and difficulties. The Batu Lintang staff maintained contact with former students through a periodical "News Letter" and some members of the staff were able during the vacation to visit schools in every Division.

The Batu Lintang Training Centre was honoured by the visit in October of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent who toured the buildings and grounds and spoke to representative members of staff and students. At the end of the year the Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, as Chancellor of the University of Malaya, presented certificates to the graduating students.

### *Higher Education*

Six scholarships for Higher Education overseas were awarded during the year by the Government of Sarawak. Five of these scholarships were awarded for degree courses in Medicine and in Arts, and for a course in Pharmacy, at the University of Malaya. One for the Medical degree courses was awarded to woman. One scholarship was awarded for a Civil Engineering course in the United Kingdom. The British Government awarded two scholarships under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for courses in the United Kingdom, one in Co-operation and one in Civil Engineering. The Australian Government awarded two scholarships in Civil Engineering to Sarawak students and one Fellowship, within the UNESCO Scheme, to enable a young Government officer to study Local Administration in Australia. Another officer was awarded by the New Zealand Government a Fellowship, within the UNESCO Scheme, to study Land Administration in New Zealand.

Under the Colombo Plan, the New Zealand Government also made an award to a Sarawak student to enable him to study Civil Engineering. Two teachers from schools in Kuching were awarded Fellowships at the end of the previous year and spent six months during 1952 studying teaching methods in New Zealand.



The World Health Organisation awarded two fellowships to Sarawak candidates in 1952; one of these was for a course in Medical Laboratory Technique and the other for a course in Meat and Food Inspection, both in Great Britain.

A few private students made their own arrangements through the Department for courses of higher education overseas, mainly in the United Kingdom and Australia. One private candidate was admitted as a student at Lincolns Inn.

#### *Community Development and Adult Education*

The Department's principal venture in community development is the Rural Improvement School at Kanowit. This school provides a course which lasts two years and is designed to help selected couples and young men to gain a sound practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant welfare, to become literate in their own vernacular and to learn simple market arithmetic.

During the course students receive free tuition, board and transport and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements. The main building consists of a community centre of an improved "long-house" design which provides class-room, dining and recreational facilities and a dispensary.

Students and their families live during the course both in the long-house and in individual farm houses of different designs, which have been built on small holdings within the school estate. This arrangement provides pupils with practical experience of both types of accommodation by which they can begin to form opinions as to which would be the more suitable for adoption in their areas.

The school grounds occupy some 400 acres, one third of which is reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land throughout the country, is used to demonstrate improved techniques of tropical agricultural operations.

The scheme was financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds from its inception in May, 1948 to April, 1952, since when it became a charge upon the country's revenue. Efforts are made to ensure that the pupils discharged in each April have the fullest opportunity of putting into practice what they had learned during their training.

Twelve couples completed the two-year course in May, 1952. All but two were able to begin putting their training into effect on home farms in the ensuing padi season, six as leading farmers in three group-padi-growing schemes in the Second Division. By May 1952, 38 couples had successfully completed the course.

A step towards training younger people, before marriage, was taken



with the admission of 20 young men to the 1952-54 course. They have done well. Building plans were also under consideration to cater for the pre-marriage training of young women from rural areas in 1954. Married couples will continue to take the course as hitherto.

Staff was strengthened by the arrival of a widely-experienced nurse and health visitor to take charge of the female and health departments of the school and to train Asian understudies. Suitable Asian female assistants however have not yet been secured. Skilled male staff is also deficient. This fact, with the increasing activities of the school, seriously limited the Principal's follow-up travel. Reports of ex-pupils however continue generally to be encouraging.

Materially, the school was improved by the provision of some small-farm mechanical equipment, a machinery barn and four junior-staff cottages. Pupils cleared new farm land and further improved the drainage and irrigation system.

The School Co-operative Store has grown to include all Kanowit Government staff.

A Community Development scheme was planned for the Muara Tuang area of the First Division. This Scheme is to be a combined effort by the Departments of Agriculture, Co-operative Development, Education and Medical Services. The Education Department is to be chiefly concerned with adult literacy. The Divisional Education Officer and a Group Supervisor of Schools surveyed the area with a view to organising adult classes which were due to open in 1953.

#### *Youth Work and Out-of-School Activities*

Several associations, clubs and societies (some conducted by old students of schools), whose objects are to foster social, educational and cultural activities were active during the year. A few provided facilities for indoor and outdoor games.

A Youth Council was formed during the year to advise the Government on the needs of the youth of the country.

#### *The British Council*

The British Council continued to do valuable cultural work in connection with schools. The Council's libraries at Kuching and Sibü provided wider reading for students, particularly from secondary schools, and teachers. Book boxes, mainly containing simplified English readers, were circulated to rural schools of all types and proved popular. One hundred schools with trained teachers now receive presentations from the British Council of an illustrated monthly teaching periodical. A well organised programme of film shows was arranged for schools in Kuching throughout the year. The Council hopes in future to supply films to other urban areas when projectors become available.



### *Scouting*

Scouting in Sarawak is still in its infancy but it is growing in popularity. Many new troops were formed during the year but all have not yet been registered. The number of Scouts in the country is now thought to be about 800 of whom half are in Kuching. The great need at present is for leaders in the movement. There is little doubt that with leadership Scouting would spread rapidly.

During the year the new Sarawak Boy Scout constitution was approved, giving the official status of 'Branch' to the local Scout organisation. The Assistant Commissioner, who had done much to keep Scouting alive in Sarawak in difficult circumstances, received the award of the 'Silver Acorn'. Scout activities during the year included a combined Scout Rally in Kuching, a Dollar-a-Job week which successfully raised funds for the movement, a number of successful Camp-fires and a training camp organised during the August holidays at Santubong which was attended by about 40 scouts. A promising development during the year was the formation of cub-packs in several areas, under an experienced leader; keen interest was shown in these packs.

### *Girl Guides*

The Girl Guide companies in Kuching continued to grow in numbers and at the end of the year there were 120 Guides. The lack of Guiders however handicapped progress very much. A very successful Sale of Work was held in March. During December a party of Guides doing First Class Tests spent a wet week-end under canvas—the first camp of its kind to be held here. The camp was a great success and the Guides all gained their Pass. The Guide Company in Miri continued to function but owing to lack of Guiders progress was slow.

### *Boys' Club*

The Boys' Club and Hostel in Padungan continued to fill a useful function in providing recreation for boys in Padungan and giving accommodation to homeless boys. Plans for the innovation of a Boys' Club and Youth Centre in Sibul were nearing completion by the end of the year. Progress with the formation of a Youth Centre in Kuching was rather disappointing.

### *Evening Classes*

Evening carpentry classes for boys and young men were organised in Kuching by the British Council in co-operation with voluntary organisations and with financial assistance from Government.



## MEDICAL

*General*

The medical services of Sarawak, in comparison with those of neighbouring territories, are characterised by their widespread geographical extent with very poor communications between the various parts.

There are Government hospitals in charge of doctors at Kuching, Simanggang and Sibuluan, and the oil company (Sarawak Oilfields Ltd.) has a large and well staffed hospital at Miri. In other places there are small static dispensaries, twenty four in number, in charge of Hospital Assistants (locally trained male nurses), and there are also sixteen travelling dispensary boats operating on the rivers.

Other medical establishments worthy of note are a leprosarium for about four hundred and fifty patients just outside Kuching, a large out-patient department in the town and a maternity and child welfare centre close by.

Mental patients are cared for in special wards adjoining the General Hospital, Kuching.

The General Hospital, Kuching is a modern hospital of about three hundred beds about two miles out of the town. It deals with the usual run of medical, surgical and maternity cases without the benefit of specialist advice or skill.

Mental wards for about one hundred patients adjoin this Hospital, and are attended by the same medical staff. Their state is exceedingly unsatisfactory. They are little more than a place of detention for lunatics. Plans were well advanced at the close of the year for the construction of a modern mental hospital of about two hundred and fifty beds to serve the three territories of British North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak. This building will be pleasantly placed near the sea in Brunei, and administered from Sarawak. It is hoped that expert and other staff will become available to run this new hospital. So far none has been engaged.

There is a dental department at the Kuching Hospital in charge of a qualified dental officer who was away on leave for most of the year. His duties were performed in his absence by a competent assistant. There is a suite of air-conditioned operating theatres, and the usual X-ray and other ancillary departments, so that below the specialist level all forms of medical and surgical diagnosis and treatment can be carried out.

There is good general pathological and chemical laboratory in charge of a skilled technician, locally trained, who went to England for further training during the year. His assistant carried on with success during his absence and effectively coped with a wide variety of pathological, bacteriological, analytical and medico-



legal work. There are also adequate facilities for the training of nursing staff, comprising lecture rooms and practical workrooms well equipped with modern aids. The Sister Tutor left on completion of her contract in May, and her successor is expected early in 1953. Tuition did not cease in the interval.

A new ward was opened at Simanggang in June, bringing the total number of beds up to about forty. This is not an economic unit for one doctor, and proposals were studied during the year for expansion to over a hundred. There is a limit to the treatment one doctor can provide single handed, but a very great deal can be achieved by the right man.

There is a general hospital, the Lau King Howe Hospital of about a hundred and thirty beds, at Sibü. It is staffed by two doctors and a Sister, as well as locally trained personnel. It performs all the functions of a country general hospital including major operative surgery and maternity work.

The medical officer in charge went on home leave towards the end of the year and a replacement was not available, but the good work continued through the tireless loyalty of the remaining doctor and his staff.

A new Out Patient Department was opened in October by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

This department is exceedingly busy, and deals with as many as eight thousand patients in a month. They can not all be seen by one doctor with many other things to do, but a very senior and competent locally trained assisstant efficiently managed this work under supervision.

Sibü is a growing town, with an enormous developing hinterland drained by the Rejang River, and we must anticipate very great expansion of our hospital facilities there in the future. Building plans for development to about three hundred and fifty beds in gradual stages in future years are in course of preparation at the time of writing.

The oil company at Miri has a magnificent hospital wonderfully staffed and equipped, and very expensive to maintain. This puts the Government in a quandary. We cannot very well offer patently inferior hospital facilities alongside the perfect ones the Company offers, nor can we compete with them in quality. Government patients during 1952 were sent to the Company hospital, and paid for on a *per diem* basis at Company rates. A Government hospital building was completed about two miles away, but it proved impossible to staff it and negotiations were started with the company for them to run it with their existing medical staff.

Th treatment of outpatients in Kuching takes place in two



separate buildings, one housing the Women and Children's Centre and the other general outpatients and special tuberculosis cases. Both buildings are unsatisfactory but, with the completion of a health centre and tuberculosis clinic towards the end of 1953, they will no longer be required.

The Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak (A. T. A. S.) has raised over \$150,000 by voluntary subscriptions, and has built a fine new chest clinic in Kuching to be called the Wee Kheng Chiang Clinic after the largest single contributor, who gave \$50,000 of the total amount raised. This building is expected to be ready for occupation at the end of the first quarter of 1953 and will be managed by the Medical Department.

Plans were completed for the erection at Government expense of a new Health Centre in Kuching which will be built in 1953 at a cost of over a quarter of a million dollars. It will be a two-storey building housing general out-patient departments on the ground floor, and Maternity and Child Welfare and Dental Departments on the first floor.

There are twenty-four small static dispensaries scattered over the countryside. A typical one is a small wooden house of about four rooms comprising a dispensary, an office and four to twelve beds for patients under treatment. It is in charge of a locally trained hospital assistant who does magnificent work considering his very limited educational background.

There are sixteen travelling dispensaries functioning on the rivers of Sarawak in out-board motor boats. No better picture of their work can be given than the following verbatim report from one of them:

"I have the honour to send you this travelling duty report of mine for your information, please.

"I left for Oya on the 17.10.52. Travelled in the Chinese launch. After approx. two hours' time, Oya station was reached. No doubt, that I interviewed the Officer-in-charge and put my valueless signature in the visiting book. Then I started my duty. Several kampongs were visited and several cases treated. An aged-blind-man was visited in his house in Kampong Oya. He was, of course, recommended free from exemption tax. I could do nothing more than written down his name, address and etc. for future transmission, if required. A case of chronic arthritis was seen in patient's own house. He denied the history of V.D. and affirmed me that he had never run wild even though during his young days. Yes, so far so good, he was treated with sulpha-drugs and mist.pot.cit. alk. He was requestd to keep me informed about his condition after the treatment. One of the daughters of the O.I.C.



also visited. She is having eczema. All the same, she was treated with sulpha-drugs.

"The lives of the kampong inhabitants are as usual. Some fishing and others farming. A poor kampong as far as wealth is concerned.

"Kampong Penat was visited on 19.10.52. The Chinese bus is the only availability of transport. Half an hour to reach from Oya station. A blind man was also seen. He is so anxious to have his eyesights restored. I will send him to the D.M.O. for an operation. The Tua Kampong was interviewed. His information regarding the health of the natives was satisfactory. Several cases were treated and a few houses were called. A native woman who was treated by me during my previous visit. She had V.D. The man ran away from her during her illness and returned back to her after she was cured. What a foolish woman to accept him again and what a cruel man to forsake his wife during her illness!. A boat hawker is seen hawking here. He is single. In no time he will possess a native wife either permanent or temporary. Nothing very special came through. So I returned back to Oya on the next day. Yes, no other chance of transport except the chinese bus. Immediately after my arrival at Oya station. I intended to proceed right away to Kampong Mudan, but in vain, due to the incorrect time of the tide. Thus delayed me for another day in Oya which, I simply don't like if possible. On the 21.10.52. I headed for Kampong Mudan. Nature of transport, 'bicycle.' It took approx. one hour to reach from the bazaar of Oya station. This is the first occasion of my visit. And the first house in which I called was Haji Malim's, situated at the kuala. There are approx. 23.in.no. of houses and composed of more or less 100.person of both sexes, young and old. Several houses were called and 22.cases were treated. Nothing serious. They are the victims of malaria with anaemia. Worms among the children and a few skin diseases. The 'wakel T.K.' was visited. An old man suffering from hemiplegia. Nothing much could do for him, with the exception of sulpha-drugs treatment.

"I spent half a day in the kampong. And I returned back to Oya then after a rest of half an hour returned back to Dalat. Dalat was reached at 4.30 p.m."

### *Public Health*

Little of real value is known of the public health in the hinterland. Malaria is endemic. Helminthic infections are universal. Yaws abounds in some places and is a notable absentee in others. Fertility is low and infant mortality high. Much remains to be



done and the whole area is a challenge to the ingenuity and energy of the medical administrator.

In the main centres of population, however, the picture is quite different. Malaria is completely controlled, yaws virtually non-existent and the population is increasing rapidly by natural reproduction. Water supplies are poor but rapidly improving, and generally the outlook for the near future is very bright.

It is certain that in the years ahead we are due for some notable surprises in the realm of rural public health. Towards the end of the year, for instance, we found reason to suppose that certain children of school age are nearly all infected with trachoma, a very startling discovery.

Towards the end of 1952 work was started in an attempt to raise the standard of rural midwifery. Three married women, all fully qualified nurses trained in the United Kingdom, were engaged, one at Kuching, one at Simanggang, and one at Sibul, with the object of training midwives nominated and subsidised by local authorities. These girls after training and certification will return to their villages and carry on their profession under supervision. UNICEF has promised assistance with this project which may well develop into a major factor influencing the public health of Sarawak. There is at present no Sarawak legislation controlling the practice of midwifery, but when sufficient of these rural midwives are available, it is proposed to limit by law the practice of midwifery for profit to persons licensed to practice. Licences will probably be of three grades: (A) to trained nurses also qualified as midwives, (B) to girls of limited education who have undergone our course of instruction and obtained the certificate, and (C) to existing established midwives. Class (C) will, of course, die out in time.

#### *World Health Organisation Assistance*

WHO assistance to Sarawak during 1952 comprised two major undertakings, and two others as described hereunder. Much of the finance of these projects and their equipment was provided by UNICEF, and the Sarawak Government gave matching contributions of approximately equal value by way of local staff, housing, transport, clerical assistance, materials, etc.

A WHO team operated throughout the country testing for tuberculosis and inoculating with B.C.G. vaccine. The team consisted of one specialist doctor and a trained nurse, and they trained five local teams to continue the work after their departure. The whole country is expected to be covered by April, 1953.

A specialist malariologist made a rapid but thorough malarial survey of Sarawak assisted by local technicians, and selected an extensive site up the Baram River for a pilot control project by



means of residual spray. If this experiment proves successful, and there is good reason to hope it will, there seems to be no reason why malaria should not be amenable to total control over the whole country, and this offers endless possibilities of such greatly improved health as to change the whole face of Sarawak. Experience elsewhere shows that to control malaria is greatly to decrease the incidence of most other diseases as well, is to increase the birth rate, decrease the death rate, raise the production of food crops and, in short, do all the good things Sarawak needs so much. We have no overpopulation problem here, the Agricultural Department estimates that even with the present primitive agricultural methods, Sarawak can support about four times its present population, and in considering this malaria work, rosy dreams for the future may be forgiven.

A specialist ophthalmologist visited Sarawak in December and travelled widely to accessible spots. He made the trachoma discovery mentioned above, and restored sight by means of surgical interference to thirty-nine blind persons. He left a valuable legacy of example and instruction to Government medical staff, and offered advice as to the future expansion of ophthalmological work in this country. This was a remarkable visit crowded into only three weeks.

A Health Educator arrived in December and had not been here long enough at the year end for any useful estimate to be made of his work.

### *The Future*

Medical Department progress in Sarawak is gravely hindered by the impossibility of recruiting sufficient educated boys and girls to train as medical auxiliaries. The schools are simply not turning out enough potential candidates for appointment as nurses, dressers, and the like. It may be that we shall have to depend on quite a different type of worker in this Department. There seems to be no reason why uneducated youngsters could not be trained, as local midwives are now, to be health and medical agents of Government. The existence of such a body of young workers would solve another big problem too, to wit, the provision of some medical and health services, however elementary, to the interior where strangers in custom and tongue are not welcome, and where in any case they would find it very difficult to live. Much remains to be done, and development will necessarily be slow, but we can be quite sure that great and unforeseen development there will be, and that the health future of Sarawak is going to be full of surprises.



## VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

*Sibu Benevolent Society*

Of all its activities, the most important are the care of the aged and destitute and the maintenance of a nursing home for chronic tuberculosis cases and other ailments which prevent the sufferer from earning his or her own living.

McCarthy Lodge, a few miles up river from Sibu, caters for the former but the Nursing Home in Sibu itself deals with the latter. The new buildings, erected by donations from the public and a large grant from the Government, stand on land purchased by the Society and transferred to the Government. The buildings are a great improvement and enable a considerable number of patients to be admitted.

The Society is supported mainly by public subscriptions but also receives a monthly contribution from the Government.

*The British Red Cross Society*

The Sarawak Branch continued its activities during the year. Chief among these were regular weekly welfare work in all the wards of the General Hospital in Kuching; the provision of courses of lectures throughout the year, and the maintenance of the Blood Transfusion Service. There are still not enough blood donors, but all calls for blood were answered.

Detachments were on duty at many public functions, and the Work Party met weekly to make clothes and toys for the poor and the sick.

The Associate Group at the Leper Settlement provided the recreational facilities there and, in common with the Chinese Associations and the Kuching Rotary Club, did much for the welfare of the patients.

A new ambulance was received in July 1952, to replace the ambulance lost in an accident in 1951.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

*Social Welfare Advisory Committee*

This Committee, formed in 1948 of voluntary members, continued to hold regular meetings during the year and advised the Government on social welfare policy and practice. It has also assumed the functions of a working committee for the Sarawak Social Welfare Council established in 1949. In the latter capacity it has dealt with matters requiring previous discussion before their submission to, and consideration by, the Council. It has also been



responsible for deciding the Agenda for the Council and for carrying into effect some of the Council's decisions.

Ten formal and informal meetings of the Committee were held during the year. Among the main subjects brought up for discussion on which action had been taken were a policy governing welfare lotteries, a draft Bill to incorporate the Social Welfare Council, the establishment of the Sibu Boys' Club, benevolent societies, relief, membership of the Council, and the appointment of welfare officers.

There are now six members on the Committee, including a representative for the Third Division. The members of the Committee are *ipso facto* members of the Social Welfare Council.

#### *Social Welfare Council*

During the year three full Council meetings were held. The subjects discussed at these meetings were representative of the welfare needs of different parts of the country; although Kuching, with its more highly-developed social welfare schemes and central organisations, demanded comparatively more attention from the Council.

In 1952, the Government's subvention to the Council, from sums accruing to revenue from the lottery tax, amounted to \$60,000. This sum was disbursed to various welfare organisations and projects, as follows :-

Subsidy to Anti-tuberculosis			
Association of Sarawak	...		\$10,000
Grant to Sibu Boys' Club	...		15,000
Grant to Kuching Boys' Club and			
Hostel	...	...	6,000
Benevolent Societies *	...	...	10,000
Charitable Assistance to Needy Cases			10,000
Reserve Fund	...	...	9,000
			<hr/>
			\$60,000
			<hr/>

\*The only payment has been \$3,000 to the Sibu Benevolent Society. The balance of the allocation is held in reserve to meet the requirements of societies should they encounter difficulties and appeal to the Council.

In addition to acting as a dispenser of Government charity the Council, through its Appeals Committee, took an active part in raising funds by means of country-wide social welfare lotteries.

In spite of the lack of trained staff to do the work, the Finance Committee of the Council was called upon to pay out various sums of money given in relieving cases of distress or real need, for which



no normal provisions had been made either by a Government Department or by a voluntary welfare agency.

The strengthening of the membership of the Council in 1952 made it possible for a Youth Council to be formed with members of the Council as its nucleus. The Social Welfare Council at present has a membership of thirty which comprises members of the Advisory Committee on Social Welfare, representatives of Churches, community organisations, as well as individuals interested in welfare and youth work.

The Council and all its sub-committees, as well as associated bodies doing welfare work in the Colony, need to have their functions and constitutions more closely defined, and for this purpose consideration was given to a draft Bill to incorporate the Council. It has not yet been decided, however, whether or not this is the best solution of the problem. It may be that a carefully drafted new Constitution for the Council is all that is necessary at this stage.

To carry out its functions properly the Council should have executive staff, and recommendations were made for the appointment of a Youth Officer and Relief Almoner.



## *Chapter X*

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### CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

1952 was the fourth year of the Department's Five-year Plan of Co-operative Development. It is a record of further progress marred by failures and disappointments. Many new Societies came into being, the majority of the old progressed in varying degree, some failed to show any progress, and a few gave up hope, succumbed and were interred.

Thirty-eight new Societies were added to the Register, but eight were removed, leaving 109 at the end of the year. A further two had received notices of cancellation. Numerically the increase in 1952 was high, but it cannot be said that efficiency, either in the registered Societies remaining or in the Department itself, increased in like proportion. Certainly there has been some improvement but it has not been sufficient for the Department to face the future with equanimity.

Much more was achieved in 1952 towards fulfilment of the Five-year Plan than in 1951, but the leeway was not completely made up and at the end of the year several gaps still existed. For example, although there had been some territorial expansion and two new Districts (Simanggang and Sibu) were added to the area in which the Department promotes Co-operation, it was not found possible to attempt anything in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, although it is known that there is considerable scope in those areas. The staff position, both on the supervisory and audit side, remained serious, although an improvement in the number of untrained officers took place towards the end of the year.

There were several outstanding developments: the Saribas Co-operative Hostel was built in Kuching and opened; the Henghua (Chinese) Fishermen's Co-operative Village began to take shape with the erection of 22 dwellings; two Foochow (Chinese) Co-operative village shops opened business in the Sibu District after a long period of preparation; the urban Malays of Kuching began to turn to Co-operation; and the Department's monthly magazine in English, Malay and Sea Dayak made its first appearance in April.

The Foochow movement towards Co-operation is particularly important. Practical acceptance of Co-operative principles by a small section of this large group of hardworking Chinese peasants may lead to much greater developments among other sections in the



near future. Already two more Foochow Societies are in process of formation.

The swing of the urban Malays of Kuching towards Co-operation is also very important, but as yet it is not a mass movement (although it would appear so in statistics). The fact is that leaders of the Malay community in Kuching are convinced that only through Co-operation can they lead their people towards control of their own economy. The rank-and-file, however, are still apathetic, preferring to leave all the work to the leaders.

Early in the year the graph of the market value of all agricultural produce took a sharp downward curve while the prices of consumer goods, particularly rice, continued to rise. Then it became clear that the padi harvest would be a partial failure at about the time reports circulated of the precarious supply position with regard to imported rice. Bewilderment followed, and some groups turned to Co-operation as a means of conserving their resources. On the other hand, some Rural Credit Societies, the members of which are largely dependent on rubber or sago for cash, found it difficult to collect recurring deposits, and short-term loans being in great demand may have been granted too freely in some cases. In many of the Sea Dayak Co-operative Stores Societies the important principle of cash trading was relaxed against all advice and in some cases brought disastrous results. The shortage of rice and its very high price has, however, led to an increased demand for Padi Savings Societies. Five more of these were registered, and more are expected in 1953.

### *Urban Co-operatives*

The three Thrift and Loan Societies for salaried workers continued to grow in financial strength but they do not make as much contribution to Co-operative knowledge as might be desired.

There are four urban Co-operative Stores, three in Kuching and one in Sibü. The largest is the Kuching Co-operative Stores Society, Limited which caters for salaried workers other than the police. It had a fairly successful year and is now firmly established. The Constabulary have two such Societies, one in Kuching and one in Sibü; each showed a substantial trading surplus. The last of the four is a small Malay Co-operative in Kuching which has passed through a difficult period but has adhered to the principle of cash sales and is becoming a good example.

A Malay Meat Retailing Co-operative was established during the year in Kuching. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining live stock at reasonable prices for slaughtering. The Society suffered a loss, internal dissention endangered operations and it is likely that voluntary liquidation will occur in 1953.

The Henghua (Chinese) Village Co-operative for fishermen continues to progress slowly; at the end of the year 22 dwellings were



under construction in the village, and plans were well advanced for development of the fishing-boat beaching and net drying area.

### *Rural Co-operatives*

Rural Credit Societies decreased by one, six being liquidated and five new ones being registered. The liquidation of six was necessary in order to eliminate bad examples, and generally speaking this branch of the movement is stronger than ever. One of the greatest obstacles to increased padi production in Sarawak has always been the lack of cheap short-term credit for the padi farmer; the Rural Credit Society helps to remove this obstacle, teaching thrift on the one hand and supplying credit to reliable farming members on the other.

Savings Societies increased by 7 to 26. These Societies accept deposits annually from their members, do not generally grant loans, and are becoming comparatively rich. Seventeen of them are members of the Saribas Co-operative Hostel Society, Limited which now has its own hostel in Kuching.

Padi Savings Societies, of limited and unlimited liability, increased by 4 to 9, one having been liquidated. Their value was well demonstrated during the last few months of the year when local rice was very short in many places because of partial failure of the 1952 crop; these Societies were able to provide their members with all the padi required for their needs.

Padi Milling Societies were in much greater demand than previously and registration increased from 6 to 17. Not all of them are efficiently run, and 3 made a loss, but in spite of the limited supply of padi available much progress was made.

Six new Rural Co-operative Stores were registered and one was liquidated, leaving 17 on the register. Two new Foochow Societies were successful, and 10 others also made a net trading surplus, but the slump in rubber and shortage of rice resulted in credit being given in most of the Sea Dayak Societies, and five suffered a loss. This undesirable development is serious and liquidation of several of these Sea Dayak Societies appears inevitable.

### *General Observations*

The slump in rubber and sago reduced the inflation of 1951, but because of the increased prices of essential imported goods a rising cost-of-living remains. The slump has had a marked effect upon Rural Co-operatives, but it is unlikely that any lasting damage has been done to the movement as a whole. Certain advantages are discernible; it has enabled the Registrar to eliminate some of the bad societies and thus demonstrate the importance of adherence to Co-operative principles; it has demonstrated the need for thrift and the advantages of facilities for easy short-term credit through Co-





Anna Photo Co.

The Royal Visit —

Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent being presented with a spear at the Residency, Sibuan, by  
Penghulu Skudang of Kanowit







operatives; and it has shown that co-operative trading must be managed efficiently to be successful.

The Department's monthly magazine (in English, Malay and Sea Dayak) is becoming a useful medium for the spreading of Co-operative knowledge. The first issue appeared in April. The paper is a Departmental one, but agricultural and other matters of interest to Co-operators are included as space permits.

Although statistics for the year 1952 are not yet available, it is certain that the total assets of Societies have increased greatly. Membership is also on the increase, and the demand for registration is stronger than ever before. The greatest obstacle to development is shortage of well-trained departmental supervisory and audit staff and it will remain so for several years to come.



# Chapter XI

## LEGISLATION

On the 8th August, 1952, a state of emergency was declared to exist in the First Division of Sarawak and a number of Emergency Regulations were made under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, 1948. The state of emergency was still in force at the end of the year.

In other respects the period under review might from the legislative angle be described as a period in which the existing law was clarified and improved rather than a period notable for any radical legislative innovations.

During the year thirty-four Ordinances were enacted, more than half of which were amending Ordinances. Among these were—

### AMENDING ORDINANCES

*Land (Amendment) Ordinance:* to clarify the functions of occupation tickets; to remove doubts in respect of consolidation of notifications; to provide a flexible method of varying the areas reserved to Sarawak Oilfields Limited, and to enable grazing permits over Crown Land or land reserved for a public purpose to be issued.

*Land (Classification) (Amendment) Ordinance:* to add a further definition to the four definitions of Mixed Zone Land already contained in the Principal Ordinance; to remedy an anachronism; to clarify the interests of natives occupying Native Customary Land.

*Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance:* to make infanticide an exception to the definition of murder and to add the new offence of committing or abetting gross indecency between male persons to the Penal Code.

*Youthful Offenders' Reception (Amendment) Ordinance:* to make provision for the reception of youthful offenders from the State of Brunei.

*Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance:* to raise the age when offenders may be sentenced to death from 16 to 18 and to make the date of the commission of the offence the material date.

*Constabulary (Amendment) Ordinance:* to give the Commissioner of the Sarawak Constabulary power to reduce a non-commissioned officer in rank, and to delegate powers to the Deputy Commissioner.



*Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance:* to increase the rate of tax upon the chargeable income of Companies from 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

*Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance:* to enact in a separate Ordinance and in a more comprehensive form the law relating to the Post Office Savings Bank previously contained in the Post Office Ordinance. This Ordinance has not yet been brought into force because a number of consequential amendments to the Post Office Regulations will be necessary.

ORDINANCES WHICH REPEAL AND REPLACE  
EXISTING ORDINANCES

*Kuching Municipal Ordinance:* this Ordinance came into force on January 1st, 1953. It converted the Kuching Municipality formerly a Government Department into an autonomous body with wider legislative powers and greater control over finance. It marks important progress in and development of local government.

*Immigration and Passports Ordinances:* these Ordinances repeal and replace the existing Ordinances with more comprehensive enactments similar to the Passports and Immigration legislation of British territories in South East Asia: commencement has been delayed while regulations are being prepared in consultation with such other territories.

*Maintenance of Public Order (Special Powers of Detention) Ordinance:* this Ordinance replaces the Detention of Persons (Special Powers) Ordinance, 1950, which ceased to operate when no further resolution to extend the operation of the Ordinance was made at the November 1950 Council Negri meeting. It is designed to confer power to detain persons whenever the maintenance of public order so requires provided that there are reasonable grounds for believing that such persons are planning to commit crimes of violence in order to further political objects.

*Arbitration Ordinance:* to provide in the Laws of Sarawak for the conduct and control of arbitrations. The English Law was applied here under the Application of Laws Ordinance, 1949, prior to the enactment of the Ordinance.

*Town and Country Planning Ordinance:* made provision for the orderly and progressive control of the planning and development of towns, land and other areas.

*Dealings in Land (Validation) Ordinance:* this Ordinance is complementary to the Land (Classification) (Amendment) Ordinance, in that it seeks to overcome the difficulties which have arisen through certain ambiguities experienced in the operation of the Land (Classification) Ordinance, 1948, and to validate certain dealings in land which have taken place since 1948.



*Food Control Ordinance:* designed to ensure a proper method of control and rationing of food by legislation. The distribution of ration cards in the First Division has now almost been completed and it is intended to bring this legislation into force on the completion of such distribution.

*Electricity Ordinance:* this is a comprehensive measure to regulate the conditions under which electric light and power may be supplied and installed. Its commencement has been postponed pending negotiations with present licensees.

*Antiquities Ordinance:* this is a comprehensive measure to control archaeological activities and to preserve for posterity in Sarawak excavations and objects of especial interest to the country.



## *Chapter XII*

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### LAW AND ORDER

#### JUSTICE

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, the law of Sarawak is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance is recognised to a limited extent, but only in so far as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance.

Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts apply the common law of England and the doctrines of equity, together with English statutes to the extent permitted by the Application of Law Ordinance, 1949. But English law is applied so far only as the circumstances of the country and of its inhabitants permit and subject to such qualifications as local circumstances and native customs render necessary.

On the 1st December, 1951, the Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei (Courts) Order in Council, 1951, came into force. This Order in Council established one Supreme Court of Judicature, consisting of a High Court and a Court of Appeal, for the Colonies of Sarawak and North Borneo and the State of Brunei. The Court of Appeal has its headquarters in Kuching, but sits as occasion may require at other places in the Territories.

The newly-established High Court supersedes the former Circuit Courts, and the appellate jurisdiction, formerly exercised by the Chief Justice of Sarawak, now vests in the newly established Court of Appeal. The Courts presided over by Magistrates are the District Court (civil and criminal); the Court of Small Causes (civil); the Police Court (criminal) and the Petty Court (civil and criminal).

On the 1st May, 1952, a new Courts Ordinance came into force. In exercise of their civil jurisdiction Courts of Magistrates have jurisdiction in every civil matter whereof the value in dispute does not exceed in the case of the Magistrates of the First Class five hundred dollars; in the case of the Magistrates of the Second Class two hundred and fifty dollars; and in the case of the Magistrates of the Third Class fifty dollars. Courts of Magistrates have no jurisdiction in proceedings in connection with application for partition of immovable property; the specific performance or rescission of contracts; the cancellation or rectification of instruments; the enforcement of trusts; and in connection with application for declaratory decrees. In the exercise of their criminal jurisdiction the powers of the Courts of



Magistrates are as provided in the Criminal Procedure Code.

Apart from the Courts mentioned in the preceding paragraph there are the Native Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance. These are the District Native Court, the Native Officer's or Chief's Court and the Headman's Court. An appeal lies from the District Native Court to the Court of a Magistrate of the First Class sitting with a Native Officer or Chief and two assessors. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court, in which the Judge sits with the Secretary for Native Affairs (or with a First Class Magistrate other than the Magistrate from whose Court the appeal lay) and with two assessors who must be Native Officers or Chiefs. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and custom, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

Consequent upon the death of Sir Ivor Brace the office of Chief Justice became vacant and had not been filled by the end of the year.

#### *Probate and Administration*

In pursuance of the powers vested in him by section 3 of the Administration of Estates Ordinance (Cap 80), the Registrar assumed official administration of fifteen deceased persons' estates. Seven of these estates were duly administered and the assets and property, after payment of the deceaseds' just debts and liabilities, were distributed and transmitted to the heirs and beneficiaries according to the shares they are entitled to by law and custom.

The highest estate duty paid by deceased persons' estates during the year was 15%.

Eight grants of Probate to the estates of persons died testate, and 54 grants of Letters of Administration to estates of persons died intestate have been granted.

Two resealing of foreign grants of Probate have been effected in respect of the assets and property of deceased persons in Sarawak.

#### *Lunatic Persons' Estates*

The Official Assignee administered five lunatic persons' estates one of which was a Malay and the others Chinese.

#### *Bankruptcy*

Only one bankruptcy petition was filed during the year. Bankruptcy proceedings were later annulled upon the debtor settling the claims of the petitioning creditor.

#### *Deeds and Bills of Sale*

About four hundred documents were registered under the provisions of the Registration of Deeds Ordinance. The majority of these were powers of attorney and agreements.



About fifty bills of sale were registered under the provisions of the Bills of Sales Ordinance.

#### *Business Names and Limited Companies*

The registration of new partnership businesses has increased three-fold as compared with those in 1951. The majority of these are dealers in general merchandise and groceries.

Five locally incorporated and eight foreign limited liability companies were registered under the Companies Ordinance. Most of these are insurance companies and the others comprise dealers in general merchandise and one company maintaining air communications.

#### *Patents and Trade Marks*

Three grants of "Exclusive Privileges" were issued during the year. All of these are United Kingdom patents.

Registration of trade marks has increased considerably. During the year 235 marks were registered and four renewals of registration effected.

#### *Trust*

In the absence of a Public Trustee in the country the Registrar was appointed by the Court to administer a trust created by the will of a deceased person.

#### *Court Fees, Fines, Forfeitures and Deposits*

The volume of transactions under this heading has always been on the uptrend. The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$109,603.50.

#### *Money Lenders*

Two new Money Lenders Licences were issued, and five renewals of licences effected.

### CONSTABULARY

The Gazetted Officer strength was increased by four during the year.

The Force was 54 under strength at the end of the year. An increase of 12 Officers, 12 Inspectors and 401 N.C.O's and men has been approved. The approved strength for 1952 was 1,199 and the actual strength 1,145. In 1930 1,674 men were available to maintain law and order. They came from the following units:—



Sarawak Rangers	780
Police Rank and File	894
Total	<hr/> 1,674 <hr/>

On 1st January 1952 there were 127 recruits in training. 282 applications for enlistment were received and of these 111 were rejected,—sixty on medical grounds. At the end the year there were 178 recruits at the Police Training School. There was a considerable increase in the number of applications and enlistments over last year. Last year's figures were also a record so the popularity of the Force as a career is steadily growing.

The increase in the number of recruits and the steady drop in the number of resignations during the year is probably due to the more favourable salary scales introduced in 1951. It is likely that the proposed payment of educational and specialist allowances will in 1953 further increase enthusiasm for the Force as a career.

Steps have been taken to obtain Gazetted Officers for appointment as Quartermaster, Signals Officer and O.C. Field Force. The Special Branch is to be expanded; an Assistant Commissioner is to become its first Director. Plans are in hand for the enlargement and training of the Traffic and Transport Branch. The Marine and Communications Branches have been expanded.

#### *Casualties*

A Lance Corporal was killed and two of his men wounded whilst endeavouring to stop a car at a road block at 27th Mile, Simanggang Road, on the 6th August. Their assailants are believed to have been members of a gang which had committed extortion that night in another part of the district.

A larger number of men were discharged on the ground that they were unlikely to be become efficient. Recruits thought likely to be discharged are warned in time to enable to them find other employment on leaving the Training School.

#### *Education*

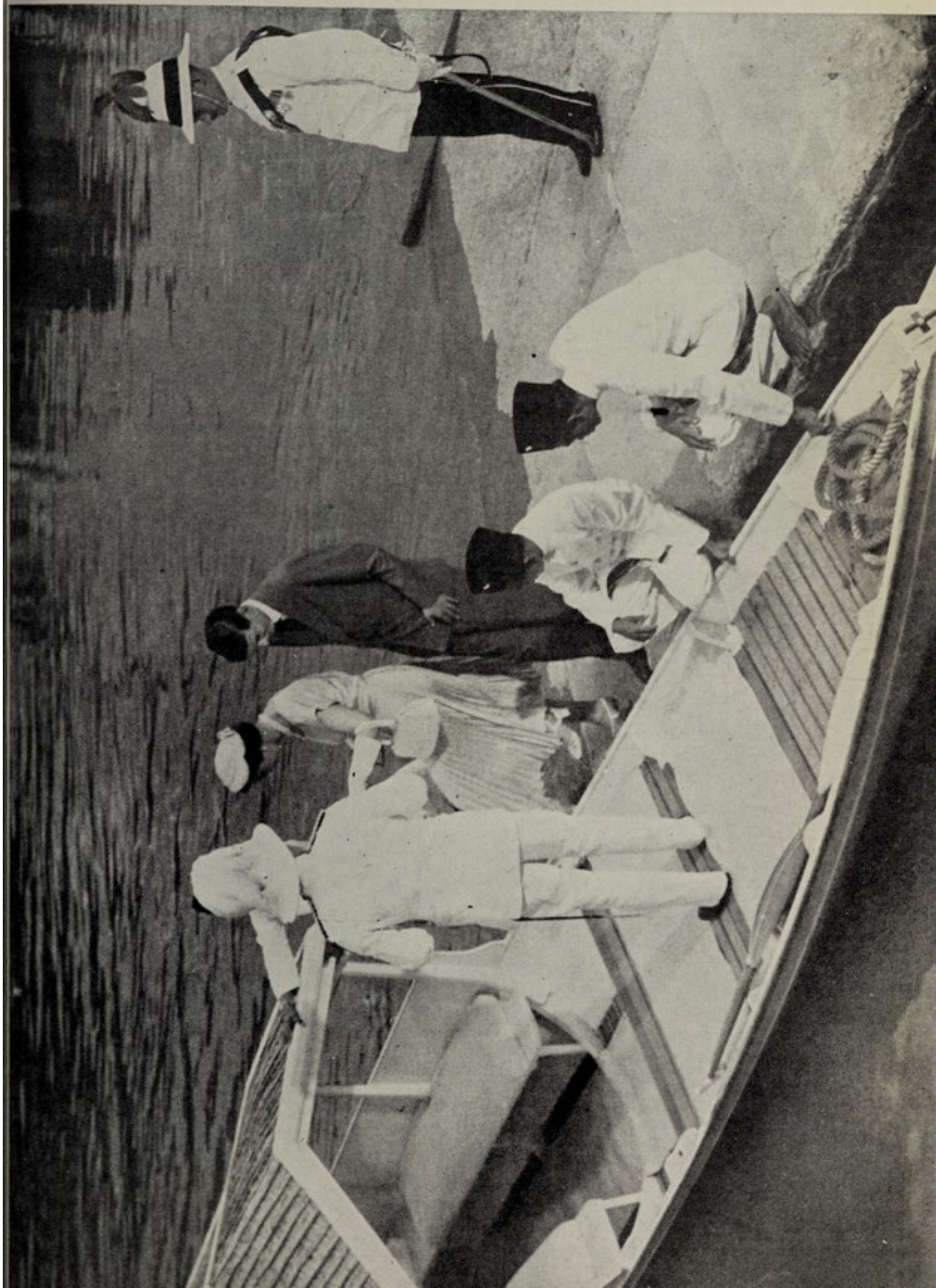
While most of the population remains illiterate we must recruit many illiterate men but we try to enlist recruits who are at least up to Standard III Malay. Most recruits thirst for knowledge and those who have an aptitude for study make satisfactory progress. Five civilian teachers are on class work. Facilities for the study of English are available at the main centres, as well as at the Police Training School.

#### *Courses of Instruction*

Refresher courses continue to be held at the Police Training School. In December a number of instructors went to Kuala Lumpur



The Royal Visit—  
Their Royal Highnesses  
the Duchess of Kent  
and the Duke of Kent  
entering the Astana  
sampan shortly after  
their arrival in  
Kuching





The Royal Visit—  
The prize-winning  
'Pompous and Noble'  
Arch a Padungan  
Road being inspected  
by Her Royal High-  
ness during her tour  
of Kuching





for refresher courses. Two officers attended a course on Special Branch work at Kuala Lumpur. A member of the S.I.F.E. staff gave a course of lectures at Kuching to Inspectors and English speaking members of the Rank and File. Three Inspectors have also gone to Kuala Lumpur for a course.

Two Gazetted Officers attended a Cadet Course at the Metropolitan Police Training School, Hendon; two a course at the Police College at Ryton-on-Dunsmore, and one the Senior Course at the Detective Training School, Hendon.

All Gazetted Officers in rotation will take a course in Special Branch work at Kuala Lumpur.

Selected Inspectors will also receive further training in general or specialised subjects in Malaya.

### *Welfare*

The Constabulary Co-operative Store has now a membership of 549 as against 434 last year. The turnover for the year reached a record total of \$214,469.19.

A Co-operative Store recently opened at Sibu is well supported.

The Constabulary Thrift and Loan Society has a membership of 682.

Police are encouraged to grow their own rice and vegetables.

Welfare committees catering for the needs of the Rank and File and recruits have been established and meet frequently.

A new Canteen and Reading Room will soon be completed at the Police Training School. It is designed so that N.C.Os. and men who wish to study and read may do so with a minimum of interference. The old building is inadequate and will be used as a Welfare Clinic for women and children.

Meat for recruits is being imported weekly from Singapore and it is hoped to make available supplies to the Co-operative Stores for other members of the Force and their families.

The Police now have cinema equipment at the Police Training School. Topical films are supplied on contract and full use is made of the facilities of the Government Information Service. Cinema shows are held twice a week at the Police Training School. A Clinic has been opened at the Police Training School for the wives and children of Police. Kampong dwellers who find it inconvenient to cross the river may attend.

### *Health*

Health remains good. There has been an increase in the men treated at the dispensary and admitted to hospital. This is probably an indication not of deterioration in health but of the value of health propaganda. Men become more health-conscious, and minor ailments are brought to light which before were not reported.



*Discipline*

A high standard of discipline has been enforced. The men are normally respectful and obedient and where minor breaches of discipline occur the lapse is often due to youth and inexperience. Most men come to the Constabulary direct from the simple life of the jong-house or the kampong.

Disciplinary offences recorded for 1952 are the lowest for four years. There has been a noticeable drop in more serious offences.

*Stations*

Stations have been increased from 54 to 56. Approval in principle has been obtained for the erection of stations at the following places in the First Division :

Pengkalan Ampat or Mongkus

Balai Ringin

Batu Kitang

32nd. Mile, Simanggang Road.

Nine stations are on VHF-radio communication and three on HF with extensions to Brunei State, Labuan, and Jesselton in North Borneo.

*Special Branch*

Proposals are being considered for an expansion of Special Branch in the near future. The post of Director, Special Branch, is to be created. It will be filled by an Assistant Commissioner. There will be two Superintendents (one at Headquarters, Kuching, and one at Kuala Belait).

There is also to be an Assistant Superintendent, Special Branch, at each Sector Headquarters—Kuching, Simanggang, Miri and Sibul,—responsible for Special Branch matters in his own Sector, and working under Headquarters' direction.

A corresponding increase of Special Branch Inspectors and Rank and File for Special Branch work in Sectors, twenty and forty-eight respectively, has been recommended.

*Marine Branch*

Shortage of staff held up progress. An increase in the Officer Establishment for 1953 has been authorised and it is hoped to appoint a Gazetted Officer as O.C. Marine and Land Transport.

During the year the launch *Margherita* travelled 8,176 nautical miles.

Other craft in the Colony are :

19 motor sampans

18 outboard motors

34 paddle boats.



### *Auxiliary Constabulary*

Owing to shortage of Gazetted Officers it has not yet been possible to give units of the Auxiliary Constabulary the attention they deserve, but the Kuching unit was of great help to the regular force during the Royal Visit and the emergency in the First Division. With an increase in the gazetted establishment officers should be available to train the Auxiliary Constabulary more efficiently.

### *Constabulary Band*

The Band continued to be popular. It carried out 32 public and 23 private engagements during the year, and whenever possible gave performances in the Museum Gardens on Sundays.

### *Buildings*

There has been much improvement in housing.

### *Defence and Security*

There were 4,399 registered aliens in the country at the end of the year. A draft new Aliens Ordinance has been prepared and submitted for approval.

The number of shotguns registered at the end of September 1952 was 45,074.

### *Crime*

Sarawak can be proud of its low crime rate considered in relation to its size, population and the number of races inhabiting the country. There were seven murders during the year, the lowest figure for four years. There were 61 reports of housebreaking as against 57 in 1951 and 69 in 1950, and 789 reports of theft as against 690 in 1951 and 720 in 1950.

Though crime is likely to remain low, a C.I.D. should be formed now and trained to meet contingencies. The standard of crime investigation is low, and scientific aids are lacking.

### *General*

The outstanding event of the year for the Constabulary was the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Kent. Her Royal Highness commented favourably on the unobtrusiveness and efficiency of police arrangements.

1952 was in many respects a difficult year for the Sarawak Constabulary. Despite a shortage of officers, the closest attention was given to the development and expansion of the Force.

Two platoons of North Borneo Police came to Kuching for two months during the Emergency to help the local police in carrying out patrols and ambushes over a wide and jungly area of the First Division. Their help was of much value and admirable co-operation and goodwill were shown on both sides. The situation was quickly brought under control.



## PRISONS

The Prisons Department consists of a central prison at Kuching, a female prison at Bau, three divisional prisons at Simanggang, Sibul and Bintulu and ten small outstation prisons. The remainder are lock-ups. The headquarters office is in the Kuching Prison.

The Department is administered by a Superintendent who at present combines this duty with the administration of the Kuching Boys' Home. There is also an Assistant Superintendent of Prisons stationed in Kuching. District Officers are appointed as Deputy Superintendents by the Chief Secretary to supervise the outstation prisons.

Administration of the prisons has been satisfactory. The standard of efficiency and discipline of the warders has been good. The prison warder establishment has not been up to strength during the year.

The public still show little interest in penal reform and prisoners' after-care. It is most difficult to raise public interest in assisting in voluntary classes and after-care work.

Prisons are visited monthly by Visiting Boards comprised of magistrates and members of the various communities. A Prisoners' Aid Society has now been formed by Government, and the Kuching Rotary Club assists greatly both in Prisoners' Aid work and in the rehabilitation of prisoners on discharge from the Kuching prison. The prison authorities also try to help in obtaining work for prisoners after discharge.

The building of a new central prison for Sarawak was again considered during the year but the plan has been put off indefinitely. Every effort has been made to develop the principles of modern prison vocational training in the administration of the Kuching prison. The old barbed wire perimeter fence has been replaced by modern "Cyclone" fencing.

The prison camp at Batu Lintang, to which reference was made in the 1951 Annual Report, continues to flourish and may be said to have proved itself a success.

Most of the prisoners appear to have been happy and contented during the year. Prison diet was altered slightly: unpolished rice, red beans and fruits in season were issued in place of bananas daily. This has been beneficial. Prisoners did not like unpolished rice and red beans at first, but have now become quite accustomed to them and with the additional proteins their health has improved. Cases of beri-beri are very few.

A separate kitchen for Muslims was built towards the end of the year.

In the 1951 Annual Report mention was made of the leaders and



trusted prisoners system, and also the earning scheme for prisoners. Experience gained during 1952 showed that the institution of these schemes was fully justified and they have proved a success.

It is hoped that a new Prison Ordinance and rules under it will be enacted in the not too distant future.

Mr. T. Attenborough, M.B.E., O.S.S., the Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, who visited the United Kingdom on a course with the Prison Commission, returned to Kuching on 2nd. April, 1952.

The Superintendent of Prisons, Major W. L. P. Sochon, D.S.O., went on furlough in October. In his absence the Assistant Superintendent of Prisons acted as Superintendent.

### Staff

Recruitment continued throughout the year, and a number of Malay and Dayak warders were enrolled. Police now undertake the duties of looking after lock-ups. The general standards and efficiency of warders during the year have been good.

The approved strength of the staff is as follows:—

Superintendent of Prisons	...	...	...	1
Assistant Superintendent of Prisons	...	...	...	1
Gaolers	...	...	...	3
Head Warders	...	...	...	5
Warders Grade I	...	...	...	12
Warders (Special Duty)	...	...	...	3
Warders Grade II and Probationary Warders	...	...	...	40
Female Warders	...	...	...	3

The average number of hours worked per week is 48 and with the concentration of warders in the divisional prisons and the Kuching prison it is now possible to give warders time off during the week.

Table of offences committed by members of the staff and punishments awarded :

Late and absent from duty	Conduct to prejudice of good order & discipline	Insubordination	Neglect of duty	Asleep on duty	Trafficking	Other offences
13	15	4	28	16	—	4

### Punishments inflicted :

Dismissed	Fined	Severe reprimand	Cautioned	Extra duty
2	35	18	2	23



(c) The following officers left the service in 1952

		<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>
Warder Garde I	...	1	—
Warder Grade II	...	2	1
Probationary Warders	...	9	1

#### *Prison Buildings*

A new timber building to house the duty room, office of industry clerk and visitors' box was built during the year.

Extensions to the new barrack and the erection of a four-room barrack has improved the warders' housing considerably. The accommodation of the staff is now sufficient.

All the prisons except Kuching and Sibü are of wood. Repairs and maintenance were effected during the year.

#### *Population Figures*

See Appendices A and B on pages 113 and 114

#### *Sentences*

See Appendix B on page 114

#### *Recidivism*

At the end of the year there were 13 recidivists out of a total of 125 prisoners serving sentences in the country. The position with regard to recidivism is on the whole satisfactory.

#### *Women Prisoners*

Women prisoners serve their sentences at Bau and are under the supervision of three wardresses. The female prison can accommodate sixteen prisoners in two association cells. The daily average for female prisoners during the year was 2.5 prisoners.

#### *Prisoners on Remand*

Remand prisoners are kept in the remand block at the Kuching prison. Unfortunately facilities are still lacking for segregation in outstation and divisional prisons, with the exception of Sibü. Remand prisoners in these places are either kept in a lock-up or at the police station. They are rarely kept in the lock-up and police stations for long periods.

#### *Classification of Prisoners*

As far as possible habitual offenders are kept separated from first offenders. Alterations to the dormitory have been made and it is hoped that a system of segregation will be introduced early in 1953.

#### *Spiritual Welfare and Education*

Visits have been paid to prisoners in the divisional prisons by



members of various religious bodies. In Kuching Mass is celebrated and a spiritual welfare class run by the Roman Catholic Mission. Priests of the Anglican Mission also visit and give Communion. The Mufti of the Mosque has undertaken to visit Muslim prisoners in 1953.

#### *Library and Organised Games*

The library continues to be very popular. The British Red Cross Society and the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union still make weekly gifts of books and periodicals to the library. Badminton, volley ball, table tennis, chess and draughts are available for prisoners during recreation periods. A radio set is now installed in the dining room.

#### *Health and Diet*

The small prison hospital at Kuching is still proving a great success and most cases are treated within the prison; only those of a serious nature are sent to the Government General Hospital for treatment.

The health of prisoners has improved. The use of highly milled rice now abolished was probably the cause of the cases of malnutrition recorded last year.

#### *Lunatics*

Prisoners certified as lunatics are transferred to the mental hospital.

#### *Labour*

No new trade parties have been added during the year. The following is a list of the present trade parties:—

(i) Basket making and reseating of chairs (ii) Blatt making (iii) Coir mat making (iv) Brick making (v) Tinsmithing (vi) Blacksmithing (vii) Carpentering (viii) Shoe repairing (ix) Laundry (x) Tailoring (xi) Building.

#### *External Work*

A party of prisoners worked at tree felling at the Kuching airfield and another makes bricks for the Public Works Department at the 7th. Mile.

#### *Inspection and Visits*

Prisoners are entitled to visits once a week from their relatives and friends. All prisons were visited by the Superintendent of Prisons during the year.

Discipline has been good.

#### *Escapes*

Two remand prisoners escaped from the Remand Prison. They were recaptured 2 hours after their escape.



One convicted prisoner escaped from the external work party at Simanggang. He was at large at the end of the year.

#### *Executions*

No executions took place during the year.

#### *Remission*

Remission is granted to prisoners with sentences of more than one month. Remission granted to prisoners serving up to twelve months is one-sixth and to those serving sentences over a year one-fourth of the sentence. Female prisoners serving sentences up to one year receive one-sixth and over one year one-third remission of their sentences.

#### *Financial*

- (a) The total expenditure on penal administration was \$299,607.65.
- (b) The average cost of maintaining a prisoner for the year was \$1,290.82.
- (c) The average cost of feeding a prisoner for the year was \$314.41.



## APPENDIX A

AGE GROUP, ETC. OF CONVICTED PRISONERS DURING 1952

Station	Sex		Age Group					Race					Religion		
	M	F	Under 16	16-19	20-25	26-50	Over 50	Chinese	Malay	Dayak	Melanan	Other Races	Christian	Moham- medan	Other Religions
Kuching	55	1	-	14	24	17	1	25	18	11	-	2	-	20	36
Bau	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Serian and Simunjan	22	-	-	2	4	16	-	4	14	2	-	2	-	16	6
Lundu	15	-	-	-	2	12	1	5	5	4	-	1	-	5	10
Simanggang	28	-	-	4	13	10	1	9	6	12	-	1	-	6	22
Betong	13	-	-	1	3	8	1	2	6	5	-	-	1	6	6
Saratok	8	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	6	2
3rd. Division	80	1	-	8	21	44	8	27	7	27	18	2	1	26	54
Miri	11	-	-	2	4	5	-	3	5	1	1	1	-	7	4
Bintulu	25	-	-	2	8	12	3	5	3	14	1	2	-	4	21
Baram	4	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	3	1
Limbang	7	-	-	2	1	4	-	-	3	-	-	4	1	5	1
Lawas	10	-	-	2	4	3	1	-	4	3	-	3	-	9	-
TOTAL	281	2	-	37	90	140	16	80	79	85	20	19	4	113	166



APPENDIX B  
Statistical Report for Sarawak Prisons for 1952

			Number committed during the year				Length of sentence of those sentenced to imprisonment							Previous convictions							
	Total on 1.1.52	Total on 31.12.52	Total number of persons committed during the year	Remanded, awaiting trial	Detained under Emergency Regulations, 1952.	Convicted prisoners	18 months and over	12 months and less than 18 months	6 months and less than 12 months	3 months and less than 6 months	1 month and less than 3 months	Under 1 month	Capital punishment	Once	Twice	Thrice or more	Daily average in prisons	Daily average receiving treatments for minor maladies	Admissions to hospitals	Deaths	Executions
Kuching	94	92	171	74†	41	56	8	7	9	18	12	2	-	7	4	12	104.66	11.00	36	-	-
Bau	3	2	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	1.69	-	-	-	-
Serian & Simunjan	-	-	30	8	-	22	2	-	1	4	10	5	-	-	-	-	-50	-	-	-	-
Lundu	-	-	18	3	-	15	1	-	-	2	10	2	-	2	1	-	1.00	-	-	-	-
Simanggang	5	7	39	11	-	28	-	4	8	3	13	-	-	-	-	-	3.20	-10	-	-	-
Betong	-	-	13	-	-	13	-	-	6	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-38	-	-	-	-
Saratok	-	1	8	-	-	8	-	2	-	-	3	3	-	1	-	-	-66	-	-	-	-
3rd Division	10	19	81	-	-	81	9	2	22	11	29	8	-	4	2	5	11.1	-16	3	-	-
Miri	1	2	11	-	-	11	1	3	3	2	2	-	-	2	1	-	2.34	-	-	-	-
Bintulu	2	2	26	1	-	25	1	1	6	8	5	4	-	1	-	-	4.30	-02	-	-	-
Baram	1	-	4	-	-	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.1	-	-	-	-
Limbang	-	-	9	2	-	7	-	-	1	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	1.1	-	-	-	-
Lawas	-	-	10	-	-	10	-	-	1	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	-37	-	-	-	-
Total	116	125	423	99	41	283	23	19	60	56	96	27	2	17	9	17	132.10	11.28	39	-	-
Men	-	-	420	98	37	281	23	19	59	56	95	27	2	17	9	17	129.60				
Women	-	-	3	1	4	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2.50				
Juveniles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				

† Includes 4 deportees under Undesirable Persons Ordinance

Of the two prisoners under capital punishment, one was acquitted by the Supreme Court on appeal, the other was still awaiting confirmation of the Supreme Court at the end of the year



## Chapter XIII

### PUBLIC UTILITIES & PUBLIC WORKS

#### ELECTRICITY

Public electricity supplies are provided by the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited, an undertaking in which the Government holds a majority of shares, the remainder being held by Messrs. United Engineers Limited of Singapore who are also the general managers.

The supply at Kuching is AC, at Sibu AC and DC, and at other stations DC. The total installed generating capacities are as follows:— Kuching 1360 KVA, Sibu 215 KVA and 106 KW, Miri 75 KW, Sarikei 50 KW, Mukah 47 KW, Binatang 41.5 KW, Simanggang 25 KW, Bintulu 22 KW, and Betong 18 KW. At the smaller stations, supplies are restricted to certain hours.

A programme of extensions to the various installations is being carried out as equipment and finance permit. Additional plant was installed at Kuching; the change over from DC to AC at Sibu is still in progress and a new power station with a capacity of 225 KW is under construction at Miri.

The total number of units generated at all stations during 1952 was 4.86 million, an increase of 17% over the previous year. Consumers numbered 3,995, an increase of 13%.

#### BROOKE DOCKYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works at Kuching is a quasi-Government establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management with commercial representation.

The drydock is 240' x 40' and vessels up to 9' draught can be docked at spring tides. Adjacent to the drydock is a slipway which can take launches up to 40' in length and 13' beam.

The machine shop is equipped to deal with repairs to hulls and machinery of vessels and general engineering work.

A total of 59 vessels were drydocked during 1952 and 20 launches slipped for repairs.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

##### *Kuching*

A gravity supply is obtained from a series of intakes in the Matang range about 10 miles from the town, feeding into two service tanks



with a total capacity of 3,600,000 gallons. There are approximately 2,500 connections with an average daily consumption of 1,467,000 gallons, the potential demand being considerably higher.

Relaying of the main 15" pipeline has been continued into the town but completion is held up by shortage of pipes. Various minor improvements and extensions were carried out.

Plans were well advanced for a new pumped supply from the Sarawak River at Batu Kitang, about 11 miles from Kuching. This will provide up to 3,000,000 gallons per day of treated water to augment the present supply which is subject to restriction and periodical shortages.

### *Sibu*

The supply is pumped from the Rejang river to a purification plant and from there to a high level water tank of 80,000 gallons capacity. The average daily consumption is over 400,000 gallons with approximately 790 services.

Improvements were effected to the pumping capacity with the change over of one set of pump motors from DC to AC current, but the demand outstrips the supply and extensions are required.

Water from Sibu is also supplied by barge as required to the down-river townships of Sarikei and Binatang and occasionally to shipping at Tanjong Mani.

### *Mukah*

Construction of the new supply was continued when materials were received. The distribution system was completed and pumps installed enabling a limited raw water supply to be given. Work is proceeding on the filtration plant and storage tank.

### *Miri*

The town is supplied from the Sarawak Oilfields system which is unable to cope with the full demand. A combined Company and Government scheme has been prepared, under which the former will instal new equipment and mains and provide a bulk supply, Government undertaking the distribution.

A small separate water supply is maintained for the Tanjong Lobang and Brighton Areas, for which a new pumping outfit is on order.

### *Other Supplies*

Small gravity supplies are in operation at Bau, Simunjan, Bintulu and Limbang. Replacement of the old supply main at Bau was completed and renewal of distribution mains was in progress.

### *Gas Supply, Miri*

A supply of natural gas from the Oilfields at Seria has been installed and services to the bazaar area and Government quarters are in hand.



## PUBLIC WORKS

In addition to the ever increasing volume of routine construction, major projects under the Development Plan were being initiated, which strained to the utmost the exiguous planning and executive capacity of the Department and reacted adversely on the efficient prosecution of works. While the supply position tended to improve, building costs continued to rise but there were signs at the end of the year that the peak had been reached.

During the year some 18 Senior Service quarters, 137 Junior Service quarters and 25 barracks of various types for police and others were completed.

Extensions were made to the hospitals at Simanggang and Sibu and the new hospital at Miri was completed together with the necessary Staff accommodation.

There was continued activity in bazaar construction at townships on the Rejang River and in the Fourth Division. Markets were built at Kapit, Kanowit and Mukah. Launch or Customs wharves were completed at Simanggang, Sebuyau, Lawas, Sundar and Kuala Lawas.

Progress was made on a new road and oil wharf at Bukit Biawak, Kuching, being part of a scheme for bulk storage of petroleum products. Plans for Sibu port development were completed. The project involves extensive water-front improvements and accommodation.

Two interesting river navigational improvements were begun, both schemes having been considered for many years. The first is the removal by blasting of dangerous rocks in the rapids on the Upper Rejang river between Kapit and Belaga, a stretch of approximately 80 miles. A trial run was made by a party of Royal Engineers from Singapore, who are expected to return during 1953 to complete the project. The second is the widening and deepening of Sungei Kut, a 6 mile water link between the Igan and Oya rivers to pass launch traffic and thus allow of communication from Sibu by inland waterway and road to Oya and Mukah. A small bucket dredger imported from Holland was being assembled at Sibu for this work.

## INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING SERVICES

The Information Service, established early in 1951, made good progress during the year.

Mobile cinema units were increased to eight, the film library greatly expanded, and many films with commentary in Chinese and Malay bought. The quality of English educational, scientific and documentary films shown was improved and short entertainment films were



introduced. The cinema can now be brought to all parts of Sarawak accessible by road, river, sea or air, and films shown to those to whom they were hitherto unknown. The first Information Service cinema performance in a Dayak longhouse was given in the Batang Lupar in February. The audience saw the funeral procession of His Majesty King George VI fourteen days after it had taken place in London.

Plans were made for the production in Sarawak of 35 mm. and 16 mm. films by the Information Office, and by the end of December a cameraman had been trained by the Malayan Film Unit in Kuala Lumpur. Interest in short documentary films of public, social and sporting events has always been great and it is considered particularly worth while to show films of Sarawak to the people of Sarawak.

A river craft was bought for operation along the Rejang River. The boat is based on Sibu, whence it can serve many scattered places. A mobile cinema and public address van is being delivered to Miri for use there and in the oilfields. Help was given in setting up and stocking reading rooms in outstations and plans have been made to extend these during 1953. Reading rooms well stocked with papers and equipped with good radio receivers can do much to bring the outstations and the *ulu* into closer contact with the rest of the country and the outer world.

The circulation, size and quality of the two Information Service monthly papers, *Padoman Ra'ayat* in Malay and *Pembrita* in Sea Dayak (Iban) were increased and improved. Help was given to other departmental publications.

The English and Chinese press increased in circulation in 1953, and a new Chinese daily newspaper, the *Sarawak Vanguard*, began publication in Kuching in November. Visiting journalists and photographers were welcomed. For the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Kent in October seventeen journalists and photographers came from abroad.

The distribution of newspapers, periodicals and other publications in Sarawak was increased. These were sent to administrative centres, schools, clubs, societies and institutions.

The Information Service acted as agent for the United States Information Service in the distribution of publications and the showing of films. Co-operation was most friendly. The American Information Office in Singapore has been very generous in the supply of material and was always ready to accept advice about the type of publication and film suitable for Sarawak.

Plans were approved by Council Negri in May for the setting up of a broadcasting service. The service should be in operation at the end of 1953 or early in 1954. Medium and short wave programmes will be radiated in English, Malay, Chinese and Iban. The generous help of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, in making



a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds of £47,300 towards the capital cost, has been supplemented by a capital expenditure by the Government of Sarawak of \$427,741. The advice and help given by the Colonial Office, the British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio Malaya has been invaluable. The Sarawak Government is especially indebted to the BBC for the secondment of two of the Corporation's London-based staff as Chief Engineer and Programme Organiser.

#### PRINTING

At the beginning of the year, the Printing Office was still settling into the new building to which it moved late in 1951.

When this was done Government decided that the office should be modernised, equipped with up-to-date machinery and made able to deal adequately with the greatly increased quantity of official printing.

To this end, Mr. H. T. Ross, O.B.E., Government Printer, Federation of Malaya, was invited to report on the office and to submit recommendations for its improvement.

He came in March 1952 and recommended that new equipment and machinery to the value of \$262,000 should be installed and a second Senior Service officer engaged.

The report was accepted and the new equipment ordered. None had arrived at the end of 1952 but it is all expected early in 1953.

Even without the new equipment the Office has steadily improved during the year. It prints the Government Gazettes, the *Sarawak Gazettes*, a Malay and a Dayak monthly newspaper, fifteen hundred different kinds of forms, Ordinances and Estimates. Large arrears of work have been completed and when the re-organisation is finished the Office should produce work much more quickly than in the past.



# Chapter XIV

## COMMUNICATIONS

### WATER

The rivers and the sea are the principal means of communication, there being few roads and only two airports in the country.

Regular sailings were maintained throughout the year between Kuching and Singapore, and Sibu and Singapore, by vessels of the Sarawak Steamship Company. Straits Steamship Company vessels continued to call at Pending to and from North Borneo. Direct shipments of rice from both Bangkok and Rangoon were brought into Sarawak ports by these companies. Ships bearing the flag of Panama have started calling at Kuching and Sibu bringing in cement, sugar and granite and some general cargo from Hong Kong. The *Brenda* is the most regular of these "outside" vessels. Logs are mainly loaded on their outward voyage from the Rejang. The running management of M.V. *Lucille* was taken over on the 9th August by the Sarawak Steamship Company and a scheduled run maintained to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Divisions until the end of the year when she was withdrawn from service for a complete overhaul. M.V. *Dido* has been kept running regularly with Public Works Department cargoes to all Divisions and this vessel helped salvage the wings from the Valetta aircraft which crashed near Oya.

Timber shipments continued to be very heavy from the Rejang River to Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Australia and occasionally to South Africa. The services of the pilot are being more than ever required.

#### *Coastal Services*

Locally owned coastal craft kept fairly regular services between Kuching and the main coastal ports.

The Sarawak Steamship Company maintained services between Kuching, Sibu, Bintulu, Miri and Baram with *Meluan*, *Margaret*, *Timbali*, and *Ong Tiang Swee*.

#### *Government Owned Craft*

Two new 60-foot general purpose launches arrived on the 28th April, namely *Lorna Doone* and *Alice Lorraine*, now stationed in Miri and Sibu respectively. M.V. *Heartsease*, a lighthouse tender, arrived on 21st July escorting *L'Aubaine*, a launch built for the Geological



Survey Department. The demands for launch transport increase continually and are hard to meet. A large programme of conversion has been planned and this with new tonnage on order should alleviate the situation by the end of 1953.

### *Casualties*

During heavy weather at the end of the year a considerable amount of cargo was lost by the sinking of lighters on the Miri Bar. M.V. *Ellen Maersk*, a Danish vessel left Miri for Hong Kong and grounded on or near Louisa Reef. M.V. *Sirusa* grounded in Limbang estuary. Another vessel the M.V. *Para* grounded four miles south of Baram but cancelled her signal for assistance.

### *Navigational Aids*

An addition to the back day mark at Tg. Embang has been favourably reported on by ships' masters. This addition was erected early in December.

### *Visits of Naval Vessels*

During the year Kuching was visited by Her Majesty's Ships *Amethyst* and *Opossum*.

### TOTAL DEEP SEA TONNAGE 1952

	<i>Inwards</i>	<i>Outwards</i>
Rejang River	224,586	220,024
Kuching	74,126	67,831
Miri	2,256,307	2,480,977
Total :—	<u>2,555,019</u>	<u>2,768,832</u>

### TOTAL COASTWISE TONNAGE 1952

	<i>Inwards</i>	<i>Outwards</i>
Kuching	93,026	95,892
Sibu	45,180	43,880
Mukah	17,869	16,677
Bintulu	41,668	40,453
Miri	33,655	32,312
Limbang	4,266	4,314
Total :—	<u>235,664</u>	<u>233,528</u>



## AIR AND ROADS

*Air*

There are airports at Kuching and Sibü and a landing strip at Lutong near Miri.

The Kuching airport has a tarmac runway and apron, Class E. 5. Work proceeded throughout the year on the filling and grading of verges and overruns. Extensions were made to the terminal building to improve immigration and passenger facilities and amenities. Accommodation for airport services and staff was built.

Five weekly services in each direction are now operated by Malayan Airways through Kuching on the Singapore-North Borneo service. A total of 622 landings (including 9 night landings) were made, an increase of 25% over the previous year. Of the total, 24% were non-schedule flights. Substantial increases in passenger and freight movements through the airport were recorded, the total of passengers landed and uplifted amounting to 4,747 or 54% more than in 1952.

The airfield at Sibü has a gravel surface, Class F Dakota Standard. Work is also proceeding here on completion of verges and overruns involving extensive filling of bomb craters and low areas. Terminal buildings are of temporary construction.

Sibü airfield was accepted as an 'alternate' to Kuching by Malayan Airways in May, 1952, and schedule services were started on July 1st with two flights each way per week. By the end of the year the services had been increased to four per week. A total of 166 landings were made, of which 13 were by military aircraft. Passenger movements in and out totalled 1,652.

At Lutong, the grass airstrip is maintained by Sarawak Oilfields Limited for private use by Company aircraft.

Proposals are afoot for the establishment of an internal air service as an extension to that operated in North Borneo.

The Borneo Evangelical Mission has constructed small private grass landing strips at Lawas, Bah Kelalan and Long Semado in the Fifth Division and at Long Atip and Long Tebangan in the Fourth Division.

The Mission has an Auster 5 aeroplane which they land on these strips.

*Roads*

The road system is confined to a few networks in and around the the main centres of population, all of which are situated on rivers and have for long regarded travel by water as their natural means of surface communication.





Anna Photo Co.

Communications—A Land Dayak bamboo bridge in the Serian district





Chinese Dragon Boats on the Sarawak river at Kuching



The distances and the terrain involved, with its creeks, swamps or jungle, render the construction of connecting or through roads a major task and an expensive one. The climate and general unsuitability of local materials also necessitate a comparatively high standard of construction if the road is to give reasonable service.

Approximate mileages of road at present are :—

Hard surfaced	80 miles
Gravelled or metalled	77 „
Dry weather earth roads	118 „
Dry weather Jeep tracks	195

Extensive reconstruction or improvements to township roads in Kuching, Sibü and Miri were carried out during the year. Other main activities included :—

*Serian-Simanggang Road:* The survey for this 90 miles of road was commenced in 1950 and field work was completed at the end of the year. The project is being undertaken by a Singapore engineering firm.

*Kuching-Serian Road:* work was continued on the bitumen surfacing of the existing narrow track, a total of 10 miles being done together with the reconstruction of various bridges, a new 90 feet concrete bridge, and the opening up of two new quarries. There remain 15 miles to be completed on this 40 mile stretch.

*Bau Road:* reconstruction to bitumen standard was begun on a cost plus fixed fee contract of this 15 mile road. Progress was disappointing.

*Road to Sibü Airfield:* fair progress was made with earthworks on the various realignments and a concrete bridge 100 feet in length was started.

The scarcity of accessible sources of good roadstone in the Third and Fourth Divisions is a serious problem and a project for opening up a major granite quarry at Sebuyau is in hand. A pilot scheme will first be installed, to be developed later as circumstances warrant, with a possibility of supplying the oilfields and Brunei. Stone is at present being imported from Hong Kong for Sibü roadworks, while the oilfields import stone from Singapore.

The oilfields have also developed a sand-lime bitumen plant mix for the roads in their area where sand is plentiful.

#### POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

Thirty-four Post Offices operated in Sarawak during 1952.

#### Mails

External mail services with Singapore were maintained by sea once a week and by air four times a week each way.



In August the air mail service to and from Singapore was extended to Sibu three times weekly and continued throughout the year; and internal air mail service was used continually between Kuching and the 4th and 5th Divisions via Labuan and between Kuching and Sibu in the 3rd Division during the latter half of the year.

#### *Parcels*

There was an increase in the number of parcels handled during 1952, as compared with 1951; comparative figures are as follows:—

		<i>Parcels Despatched</i>		<i>Parcels Received</i>
1951	...	11,100	...	28,100
1952	...	14,280	...	32,376

#### *External Money Orders*

Money Orders sent and received during 1952 are shown hereunder against corresponding figures for 1951:—

	<i>Sent</i>		<i>Received</i>	
	1951	1952	1951	1952
Malaya	\$ 76,450	\$ 71,244	\$ 37,140	\$ 36,749
India	146,240	205,696	420	591
United Kingdom	9,060	7,196	2,550	2,685
North Borneo	10,800	3,653	13,100	15,190

#### *Telegraphs*

The amount of traffic is indicated by the following records of number of words:—

##### FOREIGN TRAFFIC

		<i>Sent</i>		<i>Received</i>
1951	...	866,140	...	901,680
1952	...	821,480	...	944,110

##### INTERNAL TRAFFIC

		<i>Government</i>		<i>Private</i>
1951	...	1,589,250	...	1,242,000
1952	...	1,765,540	...	1,456,890

#### *Savings Bank*

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank at the end of 1952 was 5,424 an increase of 527 during the year.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of 1952 was \$3,102,976.37.

Deposits amounted to \$1,504,377.51 and withdrawals to \$1,473,777.34.



### Telephones

A great deal of planning was done during the year and plans were approved for the improvement of telephone and radio communications for the country. These include a system of V.H.F. Radio, which will eventually link all the telephones in Sarawak, and an automatic exchange and underground cable system for Kuching.

The 400 line magneto exchange installed in 1925 at Kuching continued to give service.

### Staff

Shortage of staff has meant long hours of working and difficulty in granting leave. Recruitment of staff with suitable educational qualifications has been slow.



## Chapter XV

### SCIENCE AND THE ARTS

#### *The Museum during 1952*

The Sarawak Museum established by the second Rajah Brooke in 1886 has grown into a fine mixed museum, having the best collection of Borneo arts and crafts to be found anywhere. It is the only museum in the island of Borneo. Situated in beautiful grounds in the centre of Kuching, it is a great attraction both to tourists and local institutions. Of the approximately 80,000 visitors during 1952 about a quarter were Dayaks, a third Malays, a third Chinese and the rest European and other races. School children accompanied by their teachers came in increasing numbers. The two great stuffed orang-utans, the snakes, the big whale skeleton and the human heads interest the young, while the photographs of Kuching in the past and the crafts collections especially attract the older visitors.

The Museum has steadily expanded its services and activities in the past five years. One result is a severe shortage of space for the reference collections, reference library, research and office facilities. Plans are well-advanced to meet this defect by building a new block in the Museum grounds. \$250,000 has been provided for this purpose in the Estimates for 1953.

The lack of exhibits of clouded leopard and honey bear, noted in the 1951 report, has now been remedied with a pleasant display prepared by the Museum's taxidermist. This material was previously obtained during an expedition to the Kelabit country in the headwaters of the Baram. The new sambhur deer exhibit is still inadequate; a big male with fine horns is needed.

The small live animals section was re-organised and the big cage for apes re-built. New casts of snakes and fish were added in the public galleries. A very attractive relief model of Sarawak and Brunei on a horizontal scale of 4 miles and vertical of 4,000 feet to the inch was put on display. This was prepared by the Lands & Surveys Department and exhibited at the Colombo Exhibition.

#### *Research during the Year*

Through, or in conjunction with, the Museum, four main types of research have been carried on during 1952:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| (1) Anthropological | (2) Historical  |
| (3) Archaeological  | (4) Zoological* |

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\*Botanical work is at present in the hands of the Forestry & Agricultural Departments, geology with the Geological Survey.



Progress was made with all of these and particularly archaeological research. But the gaps in the scientific knowledge of Borneo remain tremendous, when compared with the data available for other parts of South East Asia where there have been long-established research institutions—as for instance in Indonesia, Malaya, Indo-China and the Philippines. It is no exaggeration to say that the large gaps in knowledge about Borneo continually obstruct specialised or scholarly attempts to complete scientific theories throughout South East Asia generally. On the other hand, for this very reason, almost any research undertaken in Borneo, generally, and in Sarawak in particular, produces exciting new results; results which sometimes may profoundly influence or alter previous existing theory.

### *Anthropological Research*

The activities of the Museum are largely focussed on anthropological and ethnological aspects of the country, which offer fascinating potentialities in the human field. The principal lines of anthropological research have been three:

- (1) the Kelabits of the far interior;
- (2) group contacts and conflicts; and
- (3) native legend, with particular relation to migrations and geography.

#### *(1) The Kelabits of the far interior*

This study, begun in 1945 and carried on each year for periods varying between two and nine months, was continued in 1952.

Early in December the Curator left for the area. In the past it has always been necessary to make a long and trying journey to reach the uplands, with some days on foot and the crossing of high mountain ranges. A new precedent was established on this occasion. The Borneo Evangelical Mission kindly offered to take the Curator in their aircraft—an Auster flown by Mr. Bruce Morton—to their recently completed airfield in the upper Trusan. From here it was only three days' walk to the study area around Bareo. The Curator planned to build another airfield at Bareo so that he could fly out early in 1953. As well as the great saving in costs and in time—one hour to Lawas or Miri instead of 10-15 days,—an airfield there (probably the highest permanently inhabited point in Sarawak, 3,500 ft.) would offer prospects of opening up what has previously been the least accessible area in the territory. The Kelabit peoples feel deeply their isolation and their difficulties in carrying down to the river lines produce suitable for sale to Chinese traders in exchange for iron and cloth.



The Curator took up tea, coffee and hemp for introduction there. Potatoes, peas, lettuce and other market vegetables have already been proved to flourish.

The Kelabits are a people who have never within their remembered history accepted the stagnation their mountain-girt oasis might seem to impose. They are the only inland people of Sarawak with their own system of irrigation—at Bareo very extensive—and with buffalo, cattle, goats, and the secret of using salt springs (a vital factor in their economy). This is one reason why study of them is especially rewarding.

It is intended to carry on the survey for a number of years. The social life, individual behaviour, group and personal belief of Kelabit people have been studied in intimate detail, three people usually being employed in collecting data under the Curator's general direction. It is hoped in due course to produce a series of monographs describing the social anthropology of these people, who still have an active megalithic culture alongside their advanced agriculture. It is believed that (if successfully continued) this may be one of the closest long-term studies of an Asian community yet undertaken.

### (2) *Group contacts and conflicts*

In 1952 attention in this field was centred on the smaller sections of the Land Dayaks in the Kuching area, and on further study of the almost vanished Serus of the Kalaka district.

In Sarawak the movements of expanding groups, such as the Land and Sea Dayaks, have dominated the cultural and economic development of the country for many centuries. Some groups have been overwhelmed or absorbed. Other smaller groups have by various means actually taken over power and control from much larger groups. The series of studies in this field aim to measure this process with particular reference to the extinction of groups and the numerical decline of a number of major units. As well as research undertaken through the Museum, it is anticipated that use will be made of the field studies begun in 1947 (and now completed) by four anthropologists from the London School of Economics and one from Oxford University; each studied one particular group.

### (3) *Native legend with particular relation to migration and geography*

The Museum Research Assistant spends about a half of each year recording legends in the original native text. This work is done to plan, and will eventually cover Sarawak as a whole. It is being found that this legendary material contains an enormous amount of fact, particularly in relation to the origins and movements of people (not only within Sarawak but from other areas).



*Malay Socio-Economic Survey 1952—1953*

This survey is financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds from London and is a two year project to supply information on Malay problems of health, nutrition, education, social organisations, housing standard, shopping and marketing facilities, labour and loan conditions, land usage and so on. The Malay community was the only large one not included in studies previously undertaken by London School of Economics students supervised by Dr. E. R. Leach.

Field work was especially concentrated in the First Division. Unfortunately, the declaration of a temporary state of emergency in August, covering the main study area, obstructed work there during the latter part of year.

Three geography graduates of the University of Malaya have worked during July and August in the lower reaches of the Sarawak River, especially Santubong (an important summer fishing village with related monsoon rubber economy) and the sister village of Pasir Pandak (with a basic summer rice and monsoon fruit economy). These students, two of them Malay and one Chinese, proved highly competent. Under the general direction of Professor E. H. G. Dobby a detailed questionnaire was drawn up and a planned schedule of observations, with particular reference to land and river usage, was prepared. This unit worked in conjunction with members of the staff of the Sarawak Museum; and with the headman of Santubong (Shukri) and another native (Jommel) both of whom have worked with the Museum in the past and been trained to some extent in objective recording.

Full observations of fishing, rubber, rice planting, fruit orchards, the layout and organisation of the village, upriver and marine trade, relations with Chinese, individual character and community co-operation and other matters were obtained. One hundred of the approximately 170 houses in Santubong and the whole 46 in Pasir Pandak were studied in detail—involving the active participation of the householders.

Through the courtesy of the Director of Medical Services, a senior member of the Medical Department, Mr. George Jamuh, who has undertaken several previous surveys for the Museum—including an extensive study of coastal fishing in 1949-1950—was seconded for this survey. He made a close study of the Lower Rejang communities with special reference to fishing and particularly for comparison with Santubong. A report has been received and is being checked. It is rich in economic and statistical information. When the report has been more fully examined it is hoped to direct the work to other districts in the delta and to fill in gaps.

During November, fourteen senior Malay students from Batu Lintang who had previously been given some basic training in social



interview work usefully extended the socio-economic survey of Malays to Kuching. They interviewed over 300 households on a wide range of topics and recorded replies in questionnaire form. The result was so promising that it was planned to continue this co-operation next year. Nearly every person interviewed in Kuching was positively co-operative and expressed readiness to assist by supplying further information whenever required. It is particularly good that many Malays are helping so actively.

#### *Historical Research*

This overlaps with sections of the anthropological and archaeological researches, as indeed all aspects of human study overlap if pursued to their logical limits. The work depends on the Archives Section of the Museum, established in 1949. This has continued in 1952 to expand with the accumulation of important documents as well as the day to day recording of current literature and events (including records obtained by photography, through the Museum Photographic Unit, newly equipped).

The study of the relations between the first two white pioneers of Sarawak, Sir James Brooke and Mr. Robert Burns, a grandson of the poet, made during 1951, was published in 1952 and aroused considerable interest. Further studies of the type are being prepared. No single history could also include the detailed complexity of races, migrations of Chinese, Javanese and Malay contacts, Dayak expansion, Kelabit specialisation. Meanwhile, the practical approach in Sarawak is to make research studies of special periods of groups, gradually linking them together. Moreover, there is need to educate different racial groups into their own group histories, and in their own languages. These showed progress here during 1952.

#### *Archaeological Research*

Gratifying advances have been made in this, the least touched, research field in Sarawak. The high rubber prices—which (as stated in the 1951 report) had made adequate labour costly and scarce in the readily accessible areas—declined, and the greater availability of labour made it possible to start quite large scale digging on the Ja'ong creek at Santubong, reconnoitred in 1951 and provisionally recognised as likely to be a fruitful site.

By the end of the year a large quantity of material has been recovered from a series of sample trenches or completely dug out areas. Digging stopped with the advent of the monsoon in October—Santubong, under its fine towering mountain, is exceptionally wet and wind-ridden. The thousands of pottery and porcelain sherds were then classified and indexed by sub-site, depth and association. As well as about a dozen pieces recovered perfectly whole, others are gradually being reconstructed—sometimes from many tiny fragments.

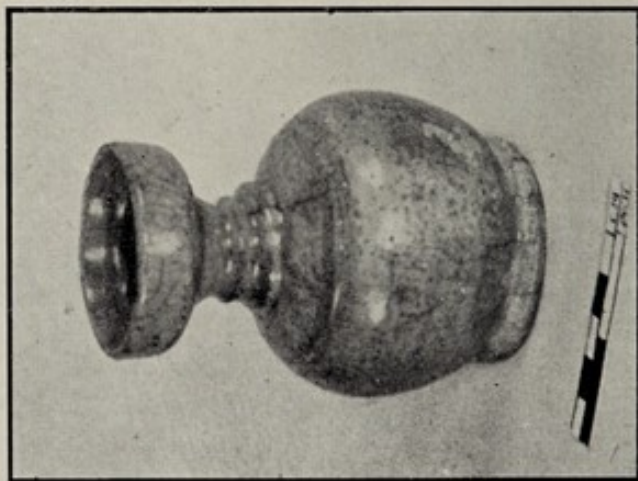




Sarawak Museum

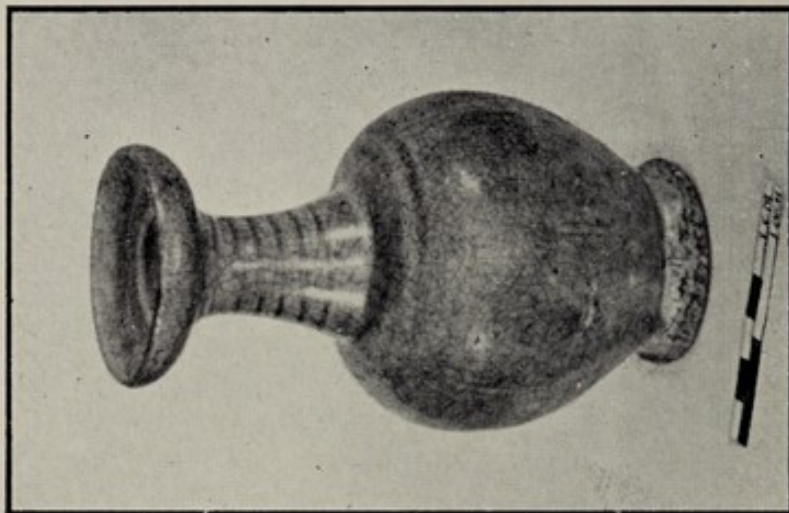
The Youth of Sarawak—a group of young people watching a Kelabit bird-collector from the Sarawak Museum at Santubong





Sarawak Museum

Sung Vase found at Bintulu in the clearing of an airfield site



Sarawak Museum

Narrow neck vase, reminiscent of Tang, excavated at Santubong



These ceramic objects seem to be of Chinese or near-Chinese origin. They are not entirely typical of any known Chinese pottery and may be from some long extinct—still unrecovered factory in south China, Annam or Siam. But their Chinese *character* and influence is unquestionable. Some experts have proclaimed them early Sung, others earlier than that, T'ang. It is certainly safe to say that they represent a large scale trade between Borneo and the mainland far to the north between seven to ten centuries ago, perhaps earlier.

Associated with these Chinese-style objects are gold ornaments, evidently of local manufacture.

Iron slag with the crucibles in which it has been fired cover many acres, as deep as four feet in places. Apparently there was once a large iron industry here also, probably as part of the trading entrepot with people of the interior, who perhaps brought down gold dust, resins, spices, hornbill ivory, rhinoceros horn and such like. But the source of the iron is still a mystery.

Even more mysterious are scores of cuts and crude carvings on the big sandstone boulders littering the area in natural deposition. Despite world-wide enquiries, no good parallels to this sort of stonework have yet been found. Were they contemporary with the ceramics, iron and gold? Or earlier? And who did them—why?

The Ja'ong creek is navigable now only in a small sampan at high tide. Clearly centuries ago it was a main branch of the Sarawak River delta, gradually silting up—as many Borneo rivers have done before and since. This seems to have happened about six or seven centuries ago. For it is noticeable that there is practically nothing of Ming date or style at this site. There is, however, plenty of Ming 2 miles away, nearer the present Santubong village on the main river of to-day. The trade centre may thus then have moved there. That is one of the problems for 1953 exploration.

Meanwhile, the first systematic and extensive excavation made in Sarawak is well under way and has already added much to our previous negligible knowledge of local pre-history—as well as adding many puzzles for future study.

Other reconnaissance studies were made during the year at Muara Tebas on another branch of the delta; in the Samarahan River; and in the Niah caves.

### *Zoology*

Research in the zoological field was this year concentrated on three particular sections—mammals, birds, turtles. The Giant African Snail study was completed for the time being; periodic checks on its further spread and economic effects will be made. To cover the whole wide field of zoology the museum needs a deputy curator with zoological training.



### *Mammals and Scrub Typhus*

This survey was completed and a large body of data and specimens are now being worked out by the Scrub Typhus Research Unit, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. A report is expected shortly. Until now, practically nothing has been known on the incidence of this dangerous disease in Sarawak. Other mammals collected are being studied in Chicago.

### *Ornithological Studies*

Bird collecting has been carried out throughout the year, over 2,000 specimens being obtained. The plan has been to train native collectors from all over Sarawak, so that they collect systematically in their own areas, bringing down collections to the nearest District Officer from time to time. 3 Kelabits, 4 Muruts, 2 Kenyahs, 2 Berawans, 2 Land Dayaks and 1 Kayan, have been trained and sent home: their collections started coming in during 1952. This will eventually provide material of the first importance for systematic study of the bird fauna of Borneo.

Dr. Ernst Mayr at the American Museum of Natural History has already started upon some of the upland material, while his colleague Dean Amadon has already reported upon upland hawks and eagles. The material will finally be shared, probably between the American Museum of Natural History and the Sarawak Museum, on the usual basis of such sharing between Museums where the joint work of each is recognised—one in undertaking and the other in arranging and identifying the collection. It would be beyond the resources of the Sarawak Museum alone to work through such large collections in any one field owing to lack of man-hours and of comparative material from other countries—since this Museum's collections are confined to Borneo.

### *Turtles*

The turtles which lay on three islands off the coast yielded to the Government 1,537,498 eggs during 1952—as compared with 1,424,721 in 1951. Profits amounting to about \$25,000 were handed to the Turtle Trust for religious and charitable dispersal among Malays.

Statistical study of laying, incubation and hatching has been carried on throughout the year, in order to supply information required to conserve and improve the industry (along the lines described in the 1951 report).

In addition, new lines of study were initiated in August and September, when Dr. John R. Hendrickson of the Zoology Department, University of Malaya, visited the islands in a co-operative research scheme between Sarawak and Singapore.

Methods of harmlessly marking the individual turtles were the special concern of this study—so that they could be recognised when seen at later dates. Two hundred and fifty adult female turtles



were marked and measured with metal tags. Much information was obtained from them during and after the period of the preliminary survey. Certain deficiencies of the test method were brought to light, and a modified technique was decided upon, to be put into operation in 1953.

Investigation of predation and parasitism has clarified the amount of damage done to young turtles by shore crabs and fish, and has given information on the importance of shark predation and parasitism by barnacles in reducing the numbers of adult turtles. Experiments in the rearing of young turtles until they are large and strong enough to escape from most of their common predators have gone ahead with some success. Techniques for rearing are now fairly well established and interest is directed mainly toward reducing the cost per turtle so that large scale rearing will be feasible.

#### *Native Arts*

During the year, attention continued to be paid to the problem of the decline in native arts.

Efforts have been made to encourage craftsmen, such as the man who makes the beautiful bamboo pipes in the Land Dayak country and the wonderful wood carvers of the Tinjar River.

As well as the purchase of good specimens for the Museum, special items were purchased and displayed at the Colombo Exhibition during the year. The Curator also represented the Government at an ECAFE conference on Small Cottage Industries at Bangkok. He stressed the needs of the small, old-style artist which tend to be overlooked in lands like Siam and Indo-China where mass weaving, silver and "cottage" industries are the main concerns.

There is a small but growing outside demand for Sarawak products, and an evident need for some sort of shop, with government aid and authentication, in Kuching, Sibu and other places.

There is no doubt that Sarawak has some of the finest of arts and crafts, particularly in the fields of wood carving (Kenyah), weaving (Iban and Land Dayak), basketry (Melanau, Land Dayak, Kedayan), bamboo decorating (Kelabit, and Land Dayak), beadwork (Kenyah-Kayan), swords (Kenyah and latterly Punan) and the ever fascinating blowpipe (Punan). Unfortunately, these crafts are steadily declining, especially the finer types of workmanship. The blowpipe is likely with the great increase in the number of shotguns to become extinct.

#### *Ceramic Arts*

Many visitors are impressed by the number and quality of ceramic objects to be found in longhouses even far in the interior. The Museum is concerned with its collection in this section, which was enlarged during 1951. This china and pottery is nearly all of Chinese or Siamese origin and was traded into Borneo as early as the Tang Dynasty.



At present, facilities for exhibiting ceramics in the Museum are inadequate and a large part of the collection (mostly acquired in the last five years) is temporarily housed as a reference collection in store. It is hoped that this deficiency may be overcome when the new building previously referred to is completed.

#### *The Arts of Brunei*

Brunei has long been an art and culture centre for the whole of Borneo. Its arts and crafts, considerably influenced in the past by Chinese and other cultures, produced magnificent objects in gold and bronze and, latterly, silver. During the early part of this century, the standards gravely declined; but in recent years there has been an encouraging improvement, and it is now hoped that within the next few years there will not only be a special Brunei gallery at Kuching but also a separate museum unit, associated and cared for through the Sarawak Museum, in Brunei itself.

Research has also continued into the translation of important Brunei manuscripts, and it is hoped to link this up with parallel research on Chinese relevant to Brunei, through the visit of Dr. Schuyler Camman who in 1951 went to Brunei in this connection as well as spending some time in Sarawak. The departure of Haji Yusof to a post caring for Sarawak pilgrims in Arabia has, however, handicapped this work during the year; he was the principal available translator and an outstanding Malay scholar.

Meanwhile the Brunei Government has given generous support to the Sarawak Museum to encourage research in Brunei arts and crafts and the acquisition of fine specimens. In 1953 it is hoped to excavate at one promising Brunei site.



## Chapter XVI

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### GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

#### *General Description*

Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 47,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north west side. The southern border, with West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.



### *Principal Towns*

Kuching, the capital, stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population of about 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper, built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also are Fort Margherita (the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary), large Malay riverside kampongs and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are on the south bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Council.

Sibu, the second town of Sarawak, is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang River at its confluence with the Igan river. It is thus a natural river anchorage and port, though the size of ocean-going ships able to reach it is limited by the narrowness of the channel in one or two places.

The town, with Government offices, hospital, wharves and warehouses, lay on a small island until a causeway was built connecting it with the mainland.

The whole town area is low lying and much of it subject to flood, but large building operations with piling and filling have in some measure stopped flooding in the bazaar.

The town and its immediate hinterland are administered by an Urban District Council, and the country district by a Rural District Council, with a joint Finance Committee. The population of the town is over 10,000. Sibu is the Headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the Headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the south-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of about 9,000. It suffered severe damage in the war, the town being almost entirely destroyed, but its reconstruction is now far advanced. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lie along the narrow strip of flat land between the sea and the steep slopes about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang, some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are: Limbang (headquarters of the Fifth Division), Simanggang (headquarters of the Second Division), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand people, with bazaars, Government offices and quarters, and wharves.



### *Vegetation*

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties), covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

### *Rivers*

The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable by ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the sizes of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and further up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind, the river banks rise above the normal high water level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

### *Climate and Meteorology*

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the north-east monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from the mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area from Miri to Labuan most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 158.54 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 24.56 inches in January and the minimum 7.38 inches in June. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, when there is generally a swell from the north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.



## Chapter XVII

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### GEOLOGY

Sarawak occupies an important position in the chain of islands lying off the coast of South East-Asia. Mountains form the hinterland of the country and consist largely of ancient rocks; these highlands are essentially a prolongation of the Philippine ranges, which continue southwards into northern Borneo, swing gradually south-westwards after entering Sarawak, and then trend west before gradually curving northwest. In the extreme west of the country there is a sudden change in this trend and structures strike north or north-northeast in common with the Malayan regional strike.

The territory can be subdivided into three main geological areas; the influence of the different rock types in these areas is shown in that they also form three geographical divisions: interior mountains, bordering undulating country containing isolated mountain groups, and low-lying coastal tracts.

The mountainous area is formed largely of ancient Upper Palæozoic and Mesozoic rocks. It consists mainly of hard, crystalline rocks, comprising shale, schist, phyllits, hornstone, chert, marble, limestone, and quartzite; igneous intrusions are common in some districts.

The undulating country, which rises occasionally to over 2,000 feet, consists mainly of Tertiary sediments. These comprise sandstone, shale, grit, conglomerate and limestone; seams of coal occur, and oil reservoirs in British Borneo have to date only been found in such formations. The Tertiary sediments are economically the country's most important deposits, being the source of both oil and coal.

The low-lying coastal tracts are formed from Pleistocene and recent deposits: these areas are mostly occupied by alluvium and many of them are swampy. The sediments vary from soft mud and peat, to unconsolidated sands, and rare shell banks. Raised beaches are found in some areas, even at a distance from the coast, and there are isolated patches of recent sediment inland representing marine, river and lake accumulation.

Igneous rocks comprising intrusions of granite and diorite are common in West Sarawak, and there is also some gabbro. Dykes, sills, and plugs, mainly of quartz porphyry, andesite, and less commonly dolerite, have been recorded while lava, tuff, agglomerate, and basalt also occur at a number of localities. These are most



commonly found associated with Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. The formation of metalliferous mineral deposits, such as gold, antimony, and mercury, appears to be genetically related to the igneous intrusions. Recent work in Upper Sarawak has shown that igneous intrusions there often contain small amounts of gold.

#### GEOLOGICAL SURVEYING AND RESEARCH

The Geological Survey Department covering Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei was established in March, 1949, with money provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and has been working for three years in the 80,000 square miles which form the territories. Two geological offices have been built, one in 1949 at Kuching in Sarawak, and the other in 1952 at Jesselton in North Borneo; in Brunei work can be done after consultation with the British Resident. The staff comprises 5 geologists and 22 Asian field assistants, draughtsmen and clerks. The Department is well equipped to deal with the geological investigations it is normally called upon to undertake in the region, and a launch, especially designed for river and coastal work, was built in 1952.

The ultimate aim of the department is to help in the development of the region's resources. The survey acquires geological knowledge of the area, and helps in its application. Geologists concentrate on mineral resources, but in a modern State geology also plays an important part in assisting agriculture and civil engineering projects: soil surveys, road dam construction, water supply schemes, the construction of air-fields, and a variety of other undertakings, can all be helped by applying geological data. Although most geological work to-day is directed towards material ends, information collected during a survey is also of both scientific and cultural value.

The first work of the department was the collection of past geological and mining records, and the recording of known mineral occurrences. Investigations of deposits followed and soon revealed that it was necessary to obtain a definite knowledge of the regional geology before detailed work could be of full value. In most territories the geological setting is something that is already known as geological surveys have generally been established for 20 years or more; here, there had been no Government survey and for some years energies must be concentrated on regional geological surveying.

This work was started by mapping districts where mineral deposits were known to occur; reconnaissance of the extensive areas concerning which little is known follows. A main aim is to prepare a regional geological map of the territories. This is a long task for a small, newly established survey working alone and making only field surveys, but it should be achieved within a few years with



the help of photo-geological interpretations and the co-operation of the geologists of the Shell group of oil companies, who have been carrying out systematic but specialised geological investigations in Sarawak since 1909. Good progress has been made with geological mapping and by 1952 geological surveying had covered over 4,500 square miles in Sarawak, and reconnaissance expeditions had been made over a far wider area.

### *Regional Geological Mapping*

Regional geological mapping was continued during 1952. The determination of the nature and age of the rocks in British Borneo is one of the most important and immediate objects of present geological surveying; the main rock groups have been tentatively determined over part of the region, but modifications will be necessary as work progresses. The general picture shows the rock succession in West Sarawak to be Permo-carboniferous, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Tertiary and Quaternary. It is doubtful whether pre-Cretaceous rocks extend into other parts of British Borneo, but Cretaceous and later systems exist throughout the region.

Geological mapping is in progress at widely separated districts; regional geology is being investigated in certain key areas, combined with investigations of the economic possibilities at known mineral localities. In the Upper Sarawak area regional mapping is being combined with examinations of gold, antimony and mercury occurrences; at Silantek, in the Second Division, the coal deposits have been examined and the regional geology investigated.

Precedence was given to matters of immediate economic significance, but now the survey is directing its main effort to systematic regional mapping. The economic value of this surveying, and of determining the geological succession, is likely to be long term. Oil and coal found have been in Tertiary deposits; gold, antimony, mercury, and associated sulphide minerals are related to igneous intrusion mainly in the pre-Tertiary rocks; these are also the main source of roadstone and building materials. Thus even an accurate sub-division into Tertiary and pre-Tertiary rocks would be valuable. The geologists of the Shell group are concentrating on the Tertiary deposits; the Government survey is working mainly on the pre-Tertiary formations. A cordial liaison has been maintained with the Group's geological department, and there is close co-operation in elucidating the regional geology.

This region is a difficult area for geological mapping; vegetation is dense, swamps extensive, tropical weathering of rocks widespread, communications difficult, labour scarce, and travel arduous. The result is that many investigations which can be completed in a few days in most parts, often take several weeks in this region.



### *Photo-Geology*

Photo-geological interpretations have been the greatest help in aiding regional surveying. Interpretations are used for field mapping both by this survey and the Shell group: considerable help in the preparation of maps has been given by the photo-geological section of the Directorate of Colonial Geological Surveys, London. Fortunately in Borneo many of the main rock groups can be identified from air photographs, interpreted with field evidence. Use of interpretation maps has greatly increased the speed of geological surveying. The R.A.F. have made good progress with their air photography, and at the end of 1951 about 70 per cent (33,200 square miles) of Sarawak had been photographed. Less air photography was done in 1952, but the work may be completed in 1953. If the preparation of geological maps of this region depended only on old methods of field surveying, it would be many years before a regional map could be produced; but with the aid of air photographs one should be available in a few years.

### *Laboratory Research*

Research results are being obtained as the result of overseas scientists working with the Geological Survey Department, mostly on problems where specialised investigations are beyond the normal routine of the Department.

Coal research has been done at the Mineral Resources Division, Colonial Geological Surveys, London, and progress has been made in explaining the unusual nature of some of the coal. Coal deposits in British Borneo are of Tertiary age: many of the seams occur in Miocene deposits, a few with Eocene sediments. Numerous seams are of lignite, but associated with them in beds of the same age are anthracitic types of coal, and low-rank bituminous coals with marked coking properties. The causes of this variation are being determined by co-ordinating the survey's geological field mapping with laboratory investigations by the Mineral Resources Division. In West Sarawak two coal samples of unusual character were found; one specimen was an anthracitic type of coal, and the other a low-rank, bituminous or lignitic coal possessing marked coking properties. Both specimens were collected from sedimentary deposits of lower Tertiary age, and their unusual qualities are believed to have been caused by regional metamorphism. At Silantek and Abok in the same district coal shows similar variations, and detailed mapping indicates these differences to have resulted from regional metamorphism at some places, while at others radical changes in the seams have been caused by contact metamorphism.

Earth-eating, a habit practised by a few of the indigenous inhabitants of British Borneo, was investigated by the Geological Survey Department during 1952. Tests were made of the different types of earth consumed. In West Sarawak a number of observations



have been made in the past on the clay eaten by Dayaks, and it was noted that this practice is commonest among pregnant women. H. L. Roth as early as 1896 observed that in the Undup valley the people "... occasionally eat a clay much resembling Fuller's Earth; they did not like it, but thought it a healthy thing to do. They seemed to think it acted as a purifier." Recent work done suggests this is pretty near the truth. The clay varies in colour from deep red to green-grey, has a soapy or greasy feel, and a tendency to stick to the tongue, characteristics of Fuller's Earth. Five specimens of clay were tested by the Minerals Resources Division; bleaching tests were made, and the calcium and iron content determined. The results show the content of iron (ferric oxide) to vary between 3 and 11 per cent, and the content of lime (CaO) to range between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{10}$  per cent. The laboratory investigation proved the clay to be of the Fuller's Earth type and indicated that for most specimens the bleaching qualities towards cotton seed and mineral oils were better than those of the well known Fuller's Earth from Surrey, England. The clay is thought to be eaten mainly for its calcium and iron content.



## Chapter XVIII

### HISTORY

The recent archaeological excavations at Santubong, the first on an extensive scale in Sarawak, following upon the more specialised working in caves at Bau, is beginning to give us for the first time some idea of the earliest history of Sarawak in human terms. The progress of this work is described in Chapter XV. As far as we are concerned here the importance of these excavations is that they can be summarised under three headings:

- (1) They establish that in Sarawak the iron age started much earlier than has generally been supposed. It would seem that the inhabitants of the then remote district of Upper Sarawak had iron implements many centuries ago.
- (2) The source of these is now indicated as having been through Santubong and other coastal trading centres. These show much more extensive early Chinese influence than has previously been expected.
- (3) Hindu influences appear to be emerging as much less clear-cut than was previously thought. Sarawak received the last gasp of Hinduism, heavily inter-mixed with local paganism and other influences.

A search for gold was certainly one of the primary factors in developing trade through places like Santubong but there was also a large wider trade, at least as far north as Brunei, in resins, horn-bill ivory and other jungle produce.

Gold has long been worked in the area extending from Kuching south-westward to Sambas and Montrado in West Borneo. Though the production of this area is insignificant in comparison with the present world output, it must, if Borneo gold was known in the days of the great Indian trading expeditions, have been of considerable importance in the ancient world. The fabulous "Golden Chersonese" may well have included Western Borneo and indeed a theory has recently been advanced that *Yavadvipa* (the "land of gold and silver" of the Ramayana), Ptolemy's *labadiou* and *Ye-po-ti*, which was visited by the Chinese Buddhist monk Fa-Hien on his return from India to China in 413-414 A.D., all refer to the country lying between Kuching and Sambas.

It is likely that Sarawak later fell under the sway of the great maritime empire of Srivijaya, the Indian Buddhist thalassocracy



centred on southern Sumatra, which reached its zenith towards the end of the twelfth century. Srivijaya fell about a century later before the attacks of Siam and the Hindu-Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, and Borneo fell within the sphere of influence of the latter. It is to this period that a considerable number of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Muslim States established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit, Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526, and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and from an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as Kuching, the present capital.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of the Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

Thereafter for the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the assistance of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, and political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1864. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.

Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built with such conspicuous



success upon the foundations laid by his uncle that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River; in 1885 when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded; and in 1890, when the Limbang River region was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of his people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary re-formed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.



## Chapter XIX

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### FLORA AND FAUNA

The island of Borneo has one of the richest collections of animals and plants in the world. The outstanding characteristics of the world's third largest island, in this connection, are two in number. The first is that it is in very large part mountainous. Although there are few great mountains, there are innumerable peaks and ranges over 3,000 feet, which intersect and intermingle to form a great tangled chaos over the whole interior. Secondly, Borneo is one of the least densely populated tropical areas in the world. In Sarawak, large tracts are uninhabited. For instance, in 1951, an exploration party travelled from the last village in the Baram River over previously unmapped and unexplored country for 26 days before they reached the first long-house in the Rejang River above Belaga.

These two characteristics, great areas of mountains and of virgin jungle, give Borneo in general, and Sarawak in particular, a rich share in the fauna and flora of South East Asia.

The jungle is a great vibrating board of sound, and much of its life goes on in the top, sky-scraper high above the human visitor's head. It is always responsive to strange and ignorant noises. Also it is affected by heat and light. Its great varied humming activity comes in the early hours of morning and the late hours of the evening. At noon, the most observant watcher in the world may patrol it and fail to recognise anything other than shadow, and indeed fail to be recognised even by a mosquito!

But those who are prepared patiently to master the dawn or the dusk of the Borneo jungle, will find therein one of the richest and most exciting forms of life that the human mind can describe or imagine. There are more than a hundred species of mammals. There are more than six hundred kinds of bird, of which it is easy to see and identify a hundred within a few days. There are literally tens of thousands of sorts of insect and plant. Everywhere, growing along with the darkly vivid jungle, there is vigorous life which includes some of the most ordinary as well as some of the most extraordinary animals and plants in the world.

Perhaps the most famous of Borneo animals is the orang utan or maias, one of the very few close cousins of *homo sapiens*. It is found only in Borneo and a small part of Sumatra. Despite

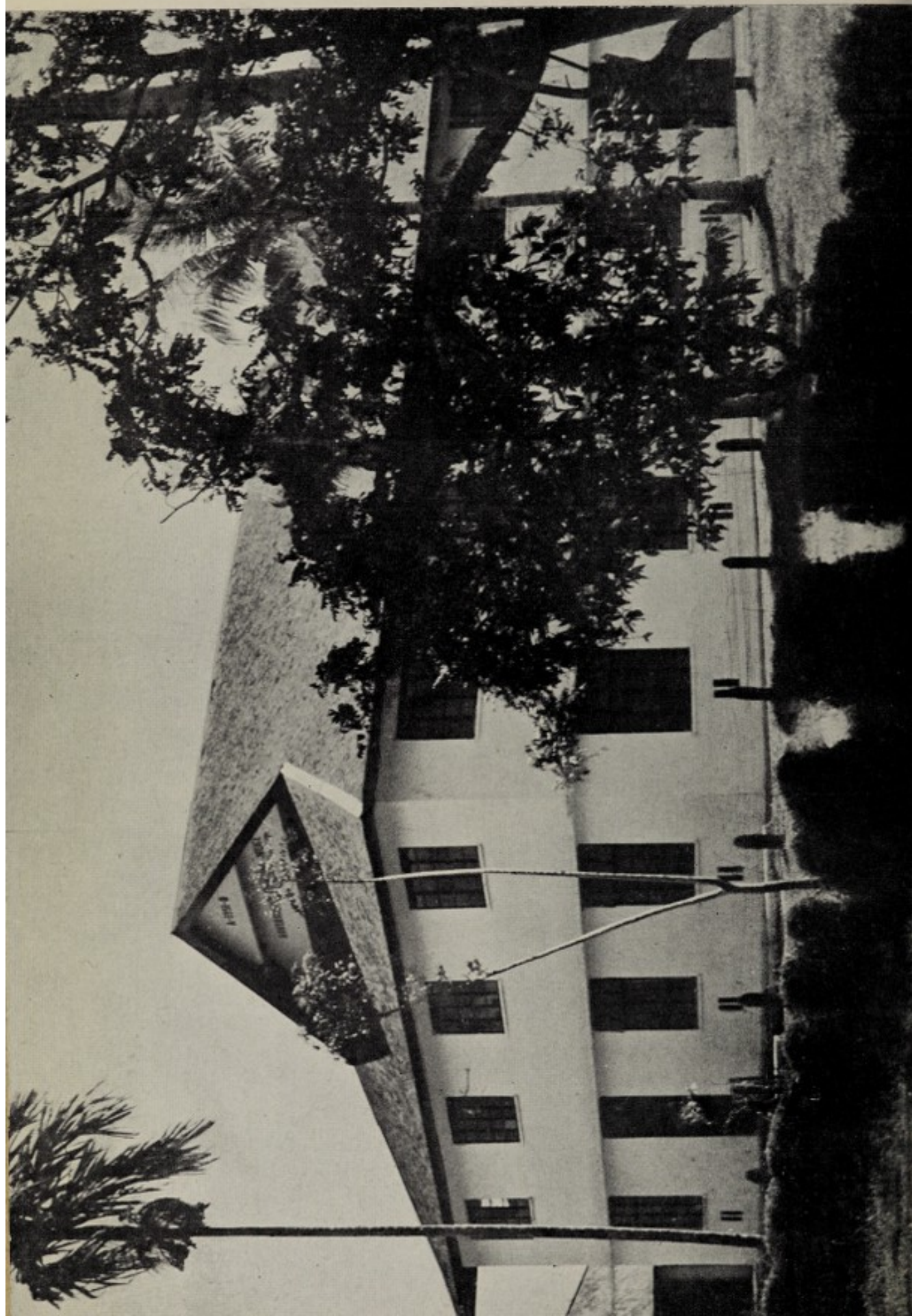


men who danced be-  
fore Her Royal High-  
ness the Duchess of  
Kent in Kuching





This book was printed  
here—the new Govern-  
ment Printing Office  
at the corner of Road  
Road and Batang  
Lintang Road, Kuala  
Lumpur.





constant persecutions and inadequate protection, there are still a number of maias in Sarawak and in sections of the adjacent territories of Indonesian Borneo and North Borneo. This charming, amiable, chestnut-furred animal, desired by zoos all over the world, can still be seen, shambling from tree to tree in the inland sections of the First and Second Divisions.

Another of the five great apes of the world also occurs in Borneo, the gibbon or *wak-wak*, probably the most graceful of all arboreal animals. A favourite pet, it is in captivity very susceptible to pneumonic diseases.

A little below the apes are the monkeys. Here again, Sarawak can claim some distinction. The proboscis monkey, represented on North Borneo stamps, is peculiar to the island and is distinguished by an immense rubicund port-wine nose. It seems a little unfair that the native name for this otherwise elegant animal, sometimes standing almost as high as a man, is "Orang Blanda"—in English "a Dutchman."

Sarawak is rich in other mammals, of which there is space to mention only a few. The rhinoceros is dangerously near extinction, largely owing to the persistent (now illegal) hunting of these animals by the Dayaks, who sell them to the Chinese. Wild cattle are quite commonly found in the northern part of the country; wild elephants are confined to North Borneo. Three sorts of deer are extremely numerous; the sambbur deer or rusa, almost as big as a cow, is in some places a nuisance to rice farmers. The tiny mousedeer or "pelandok", famous in many Malay legends, does not seem to be so clever as the stories suggest, but on the other hand provides some of the most succulent meat for those who travel through the jungle.

There is only one dangerous animal, the honey bear or "bruang". The leopard can be immense and magnificent. But the people of the island regard it as effeminate. The honey bear, however, if upset or with a family of young, will attack the unwary traveller. Many are the stories of people who have been clawed and in some cases killed, by angry honey bears.

Of the many animals, mention may perhaps be made of the Kelabit badger, only found in the highlands, which looks rather like a skunk and performs exactly like one. The flying squirrels, flying lemurs and flying foxes give us variations on the theme of gliding. There are plenty of porcupines, who do *not* discharge their quills. There is a sort of bat which is blind and white, and has a pouch in which lives a special sort of insect not found anywhere else. There are caves which a million bats share with more than a million swifts in the ghostly shadows of daytime and the whirling vortex of dusk. Of course, to those who plough along with a line of porters on a time schedule little of this is revealed, and the tense crowded life of the jungle is only visible to those who give it attention.



There is also to be found in Borneo one of the richest bird faunae in the world. There are several sorts of hornbill, notorious for their domesticity—the male walls the female into the nest and feeds her therein and only liberates her when the young are ready to fly. There are several of the most beautiful pheasants in the world, including the spectacular Argus. Its feathers are more handsome than those of the peacock; its dancing grounds are stamped out of the mud so that several males can compete to the delight, or at least excitement, of Lady A.

Sarawak has parrots, broadbills, ten sorts of pigeon, egrets, nearly twenty kinds of woodpecker, exquisite honeyeaters and flower-peckers, the lovely voiced yellow-crowned bulbul, ten kinds of flashing kingfishers and so many many other birds that it is doubtful if any one person could ever learn to know and recognise them all in one life time.

Some of the birds, such as the munias or parrot finches which probably eat a few million dollars' worth of padi in a year, or the swiftlets which, from the compassion of their saliva, make edible nests worth many thousands of dollars a year, are of economic interest. The edible swifts of Sarawak, along with edible turtles, provided in days gone by two of the most favoured foods for export to gourmets in China.

Sarawak can boast of the presence of the most dangerous and deadly snake in the world, the hamadryad or king cobra. This appalling reptile, which can grow over 15 feet in length and is quite common, is one of the very few in the world which will deliberately attack human beings. It also has its own hideous beauty.

Lizards, of which there are almost a hundred kinds, are more conspicuous, especially because of the attraction which human dwellings appear to have for some varieties; the most obvious are the gecko and "chichak". An observant person will quite often see flying lizards, which actually only glide on membranes extended between the front and back limbs. Sarawak is rich in flying forms, its flying snake being one of the most spectacular. This peculiar snake, which looks quite ordinary, can (when it wishes) extend its ribs to produce two sails and soar for quite a distance. One which was let go from the upper storey of the Sarawak Museum, glided nearly 50 yards. Among the amphibians, there are also flying frogs and frogs with small bodies and huge feet upon which are suckers. There are also enormous toads, some of them weighing pounds, which like to sit on rotten tree trunks, cogitating.

For the rest, the vertebrate fauna—those with backbones—are mainly to be found in the sea. There are plenty of sharks, sometimes weighing up to hundreds of pounds. There is no



record in recent years of anybody being taken by a shark, but someone is consumed by a crocodile in the rivers each year. There seem to be very few other big fish; so far no one has shown that big game fishing is possible here. This is largely because there appears to be a shortage of feed for big fish around Sarawak's shores—and in general, fish are just numerous enough to satisfy local markets. The only three common big fish which can be taken on line are the baraccuda, the horse mackerel and the banito. Very big sting rays are seen from time to time, and large sawfish are sometimes caught in fishermen's nets about the deltas—unfortunately for the fishermen, whose nets are thereby damaged.

Perhaps enough has been said to indicate the tremendous wealth of Sarawak's animal and plant life. Numerous other illustrations of this wealth can be produced from *molluscs* (shells), *crustaceans* (crabs, etc.), *arthropods* (spiders, etc.) and *nematodes* (worms). In the vertebrate section of spineless or boneless animals, the variety of forms is immense; Dr. B. M. Hobby, M.A., D. Phil., F.R.E.S., of the Department of Entomology in Oxford, who accompanied the Oxford University Expedition to Sarawak in 1932, has continued to write descriptive papers on specialised groups of insects ever since, and will himself be the first to admit that he only has a fractional knowledge of the insect fauna of Sarawak.

Sarawak also teems with beautiful flies, loveliest of all being the Rajah Brooke's bird-wing which features on Sarawak stamps, though with considerable inaccuracy.

As essential background, of course, to all the animal life, the fauna of this vivid territory, is the plant life, the flora. This is a little less varied, but even so one of the most prolific and fertile. There are some very distinct vegetation forms which in turn largely determine the fauna living within them. Above about 3,000 feet on the numerous mountains there is low vegetation draped with mosses with its own special fauna and flora—the "moss forest habitat." In the lowlands, the jungle grows to great heights and where it has not been felled produces several different levels of animal and plant life. This virgin jungle, with its canopy, sub-canopy, intermediate and ground level fauna and flora, is the most widespread and the richest environment for the life of Borneo. Big sections of Sarawak are entirely given up to virgin jungle, uninhabited except by the occasional visits of nomadic Punans.

Where man has had his influence there is secondary jungle, gradually reverting to primary jungle over many years and distinguished by the lack of great trees. And on the coastal plain the swamp forests, large areas of mangrove and nipah palm, and along the sand fringes casuarina; as with the animals so with the plants, abundance is the descriptive word.

To the hasty eye, it all looks rather dull, uniform and unexciting. There are no towering banks of orchids or great clutching plants.



There is the dark green background, the damp, and the decay which is the essence of equatorial jungle. But to those who are prepared to take a second, slower look, to sit around patiently, to be bitten by leeches, wonders and beauties will presently reveal themselves. For in Sarawak are some of the world's most glorious orchids such as the *arachnis grandiflora*, not obvious but easily found upon the epiphytic trees, which are their hosts. The most weird is perhaps the *rafflesia*, a staggering yellow and red blossom which comes straight out of the ground as a jungle flower big enough to have your bath in.

But we must draw the line somewhere. The only place is within the jungle itself. A few pages can never describe the mystery of this complexity; ugliness, beauty, discomfort and peace.



## *Chapter XX*

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### ADMINISTRATION

Sarawak is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is sub-divided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into smaller areas or sub-districts each in charge of a member of the Native Officers Service. As far as is practicable, Government attempts to free Residents and District Officers from as much office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the keynote of administration.

The Divisions may be summarised as follows :—

The First Division, with headquarters at Kuching.

The Second Division, with headquarters at Simanggang.

The Third Division, with headquarters at Sibu.

The Fourth Division, with headquarters at Miri.

The Fifth Division, with headquarters at Limbang.

In addition, the District Officers are advised by District Advisory Councils and sometimes Chinese Advisory Boards set up in each District, whilst Residents have the benefit of the advice of Divisional Advisory Councils which meet at frequent intervals at Divisional Headquarters.

The most important development in administration since the termination of World War II has been the progress made in Local Government. Before the War the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling Ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This Order contemplated the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs, but the first experiment on these lines did not get very far owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision. In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own Treasuries, and five such Authorities came into being at the beginning of 1948. The Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, forms the basis for the powers of these Authorities. Their revenues consist of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government calculated according to the number



of tax-payers. At the end of 1952 there were 17 Local Authorities in operation and no less than 240,000 people subject to their jurisdiction. The majority of these Authorities are established on a racial basis, but it has become clear that this basis for the formation of Authorities is unsound and the "Mixed" or inter-racial Authority is the one upon which the Local Government of the future will be patterned, and it is of interest to note that where such an Authority has already been established Local Government is generally in a healthy condition.

The following Local Authorities were in existence at the close of the year:-

- Lundu Local Authority
- Upper Sarawak (Bau) Local Authority
- Upper Sadong (Serian) Local Authority
- Batang Lupar Dayak Local Authority, Simanggang
- Saribas Dayak Local Authority, Betong
- Kalaka Dayak Local Authority, Saratok
- Kalaka Malay Local Authority, Saratok
- Sibu Urban District Council
- Sibu Rural District Council
- Lower Rejang District Sea Dayak Local Authority, Sarikei
- Mukah Mixed Local Authority
- Kanowit Sea Dayak Local Authority
- Kapit District Local Authority
- Baram Local Authority
- Sebauh (Batang Kemana) Local Authority
- Tatau Local Authority
- Limbang District Council

Particular mention must be made of the successful Authorities at Mukah, Limbang and Sibu where the co-operation between the various races included within the jurisdiction of the Authority has been very marked.

In 1941, to commemorate the centenary of Brooke rule in Sarawak, His Highness the Rajah granted a Constitution and, in 1946, when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.

The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of 25 members, 14 of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and 11 of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the country and of their various interests.



The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the 25 members there are 14 standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the country and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the country except with the consent of that body.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgement, Her Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgement, too unimportant to require their advice; or

(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgement, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.

Important proposals for revision of the Constitution Ordinance were mentioned by His Excellency the Governor in his speech to Council Negri in December, and reference has been made to them in the chapter entitled *General Review of the Year*—Chapter 1—of this Report.



## Chapter XXI

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### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of Sarawak are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :

1 Tahil	...	...	= $1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	...		= $1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Picul (100 katis)...			= $133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Koyan (40 piculs)			= $5333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Chhun	...	...	= 1.19.40 inches.
10 Chhuns	...	...	= 1 Chhek = $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
1 Panchang	...		= 108 stacked cubic feet.



## Chapter XXII

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### NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

		FOUNDED
<i>Sarawak Tribune</i> , Kuching (daily-English) ...	...	1945
<i>Chinese Daily News</i> , Kuching (Chinese) ...	...	1945
<i>Sarawak Vanguard</i> , Kuching (daily-Chinese). ...	...	1952
<i>Ta Tung Daily News</i> , Sibü (Chinese) ...	...	1948
<i>Sie Hwa Daily News</i> , Sibü (Chinese) ...	...	1952
<i>Current Critic</i> , Kuching (bi-weekly-Chinese) ...	...	1946
<i>Utusan Sarawak</i> , Kuching (bi-weekly-Malay) ...	...	1949
<i>Pedoman Ra'ayat</i> (monthly-Malay) ...	...	1950
<i>Pembrita</i> (monthly-Iban) ...	...	1950
<i>Sarawak Gazette</i> (monthly-English) ...	...	1870
<i>Co-operation in Sarawak</i> (monthly-English-Malay-Iban)		1952



## Chapter XXIII

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

- The Colonial Office List*  
*The Sarawak Civil Service List*  
*The Sarawak Government Gazette* (twice monthly)  
*Proceedings of Council Negri* (twice yearly)  
*Sarawak Museum Journal*  
*Report of the Borneo Salaries Commission*, (1947)  
*Handbook of Sarawak* (1949)  
*Annual Reports of the Geological Survey Department* (1949, 1950, 1951)  
*The Natural Resources of Sarawak* (Second Edition, 1952)

#### BOOKS

- The Expedition to Borneo of H.M.S. Dido for the Suppression of Piracy* (containing extracts from the journals of Sir James Brooke, the first Rajah) —Captain H. Keppel, R.N. (1846)  
*Low's Sarawak*—Hugh Low (1848)  
*Rajah Brooke's Journals* (the first Rajah)—Captain Mundy R.N. (1848)  
*Life in the Forests of the Far East*—Spencer St. John (1863)  
*Ten Years in Sarawak*—Sir Charles Brooke (the second Rajah) (1866)  
*The Rajah of Sarawak* (the first Rajah)—Jacob (1876)  
*Natives of Sarawak and British North Borneo*—Ling Roth (1896)  
*The Life of Sir James Brooke*—Spencer St. John (1899)  
*Sarawak under its Two White Rajahs*—S. Baring-Gould and C.A. Bampfylde (1909)  
*Seventeen Years among the Sea Dayaks of Borneo*—Gomes (1911)  
*The Pagan Tribes of Borneo*—Hose and McDougall (1912)  
*My Life in Sarawak*—Margaret, Ranee of Sarawak (1913)  
*Borneo, the Land of River and Palm*—Eda Green (1919)



*Sarawak* (a handbook written for the Malaya-Borneo Exhibition, Singapore, 1922)—Sylvia, Ranee of Sarawak

*Letters from Sarawak*—Harriette McDougall, wife of Francis McDougall, first Bishop of Labuan (1924)

*Rajah Brooke and Baroness Burdett-Coutts* (Letters)—Owen Rutter (1935)

*The Three White Rajahs*—Sylvia, Ranee of Sarawak (1939)

*A Naturalist in Sarawak*—E. Banks (Kuching Press, 1949)

*Bornean Mammals*—E. Banks (Kuching Press, 1949)



## COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES—SARAWAK ALLOCATION.

Scheme number	Title of Scheme	Total Grant	Actual expenditure to 31.12.51.	Estimated expenditure in 1952.	Estimated expenditure 1953.	
D. 816 & D. 816A	Agricultural Soil Survey ...	\$ 128,800	\$ 90,280	\$ 23,992	\$ —	
D. 826	Rubber Industry-Improvement of	83,228	35,785	27,497	6,400	
D. 954	Cultivation of Cash Crops ...	128,000	63,833	27,847	12,000	
D. 968	Visit of Malayan Irrigation Engineer ...	2,571	1,934	—	—	Completed in 1949.
D. 973 & D. 973A	Mechanical Cultivation ...	136,140	83,074	—	—	Completed in 1951.
D. 1208 & D. 1208A-B	Rice Cultivation—Paya Megok ...	569,908	248,061	77,099	63,378	
D. 1424	Cocoa Development ..	17,950	7,874	2,665	2,400	
D. 1519	Dept. of Agri. Staff Training School ...	100,000	82,864	17,136	—	Completed in 1952.
	Farm Mechanisation ...	163,500	8,481	74,999	50,000	Represents 50% of total expenditure up to \$65,871 eligible for reimbursement from C.D. & W.
D. 1664	Rice Cultivation—Niah-Sibuti ..	65,871	—	26,699	32,800	funds when a formal scheme is approved.
D. 830	Travelling Dispensaries ..	670,000	472,339	187,570	—	Part of Main Scheme.
D. 1828	Central Mental Hospital ..	488,571	—	—	488,571	
D. 838	Rural Improvement School, Kanowit ...	275,194	233,659	16,039	—	Scheme expired 30.4.52.
D. 839 & D. 839A	Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre and School ...	901,373	461,061	180,006	59,356	
D. 1975	Grants for Science Laboratories	150,000	—	—	150,000	



D. 1071	GRANTS FOR DOMESTIC SCIENCE		80,000	3,428	80,000	3,428	80,000	3,428	80,000	Expenditure incurred in United Kingdom. Completed in 1951.
D. 821	Rooms	Training of Fishery Survey Officer	80,000	3,428	—	—	—	—	80,000	
D. 837 & D. 837A	Fisheries Survey	...	86,786	—	80,922	—	—	—	—	Completed in 1951.
D. 1120	Forestry Development	...	392,694	65,213	71,497	77,876	—	—	77,876	
D. 1273	Port Development	...	79,971	59,732	15,827	—	—	—	—	
D. 1430 & D. 1430A	Buildings (Senior Service Quarters)	...	226,011	80,273	145,738	—	—	—	—	
D. 1542 & D. 1542A	Sibu Airfield	...	180,000	155,213	24,787	—	—	—	—	
D. 913A-B	Kuching Airfield (Supplementary)	...	291,916	193,793	98,123	—	—	—	—	
D. 944	Secondary Roads & Telecommunication	...	102,171	98,911	—	—	—	—	—	Completed in 1950.
D. 1076 & A-D	Communication—Roads :—									
(1)	(a) Reconstruction of 29½ Miles Kuching-Serian Road (D. 1076. D. 1076A & D. 1076B)	...	1,512,300	245,797	800,000	466,503	—	—	—	
	(b) Survey Serian-Simanggang Road (D. 1076 & D. 1076B)	...	120,000	120,000	—	—	—	—	—	Subject to approval of Secretary of State excess expenditure on Scheme of \$3,887.
	(c) Test Boring for Bridges Serian-Simanggang Road (D. 1076B)	...	15,000	8,982	9,905	—	—	—	—	
(2)	Reconstruction of 18 Bridges and Repairs to 11 Bridges on the Upper Sarawak Area (D. 1076)	...	51,294	50,573	—	—	—	—	—	
	Carried forward	...	7,022,677	2,952,082	1,827,426	1,489,264	—	—	—	



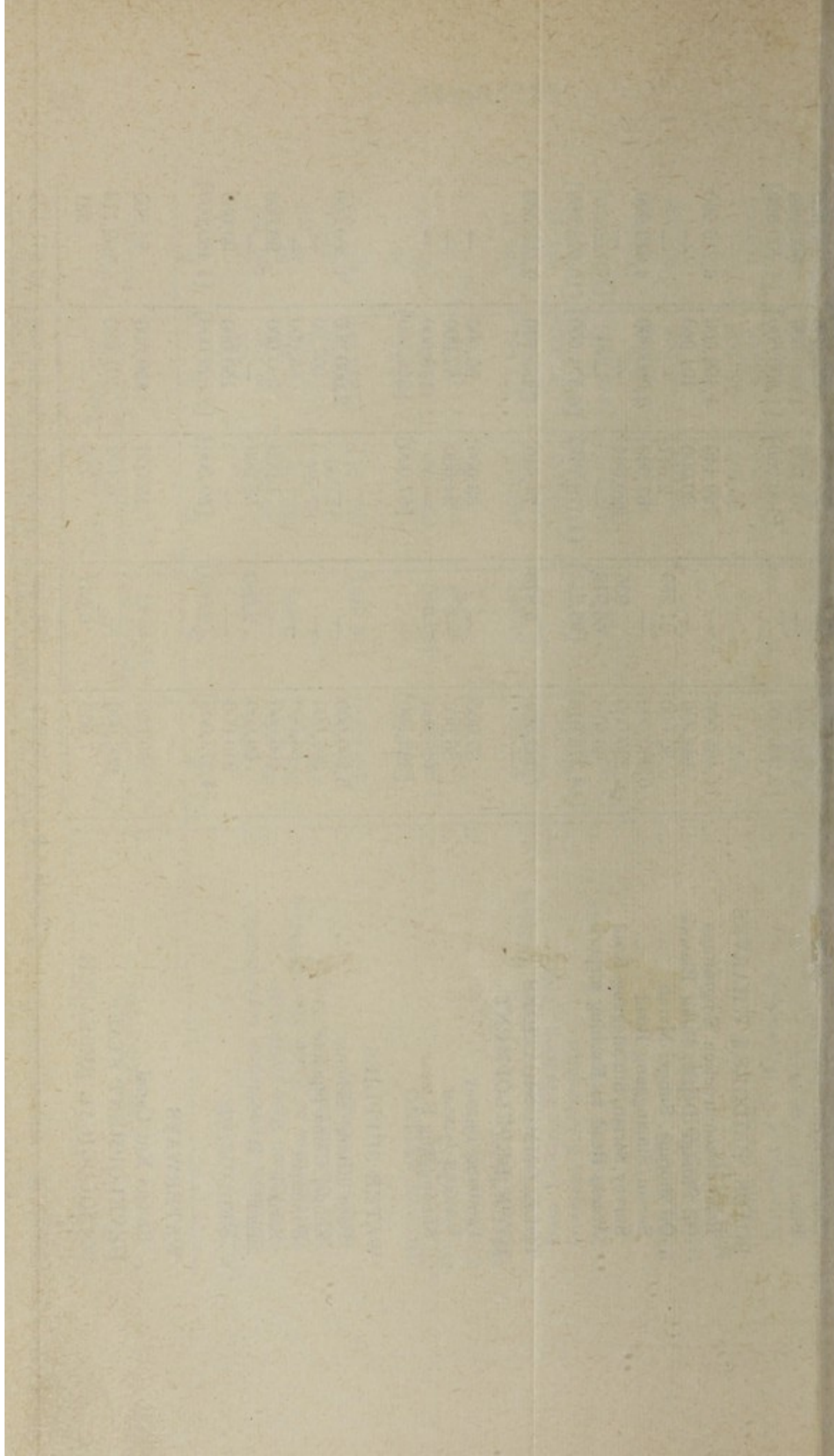
## CLASS II. DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEMES (COLONY FUNDS)—SCHEMES IN OPERATION.

Title of Scheme.	Total estimated cost of Scheme.	Actual expenditure to 31.12.51.	Estimated expenditure in 1952.	Estimated expenditure 1953.	Balance of Scheme.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Fertiliser Manufacture experiments ...	5,000	2,923	643	1,434	—
Niah/Sibuti Rice Cultivation ...	327,222	879	25,820	32,800	267,723
Development of Farm Mechanisation ...	302,340	9,076	117,245	121,287	54,732
Rice Cultivation—Paya Megok ...	139,074	—	33,883	27,853	77,338
Animal Husbandry ...	50,000	—	13,000	15,000	22,000
	[823,636]	[12,878]	[190,591]	[198,374]	[421,793]
<b>BROADCASTING</b>	427,741	—	—	427,741	—
<b>BUILDINGS</b>	1,988,500	159,040	327,060	1,102,400	400,000
<b>CIVIL AVIATION</b>	156,000	38,740	105,760	11,500	—
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Rural Improvement School, Kanowit ...	538,320	31,957	179,812	171,584	154,967
Batu Lintang Training Centre ...	935,000	—	—	163,107	771,893
Overseas Scholarships ...	468,980	—	34,000	80,700	354,280
Production of Vernacular Literature ...	40,000	—	900	—	39,100
	[1,982,300]	[31,957]	[214,712]	[415,391]	[1,320,210]
<b>FISHERIES</b>	146,720	—	36,401	41,950	68,369
<b>GEOLOGICAL SURVEY</b>	360,000	—	67,500	90,000	202,500
<b>MEDICAL</b>					
Health Centre ...	280,000	—	20,000	260,000	—
Extension of T. B. facilities ...	210,000	—	5,000	55,000	150,000
Anti-T.B. Campaign ...	75,000	—	7,000	34,000	34,000
Travelling Dispensaries ...	1,036,573	—	—	221,723	814,850
Leper Settlement ..	185,000	30,986	93,900	60,114	—

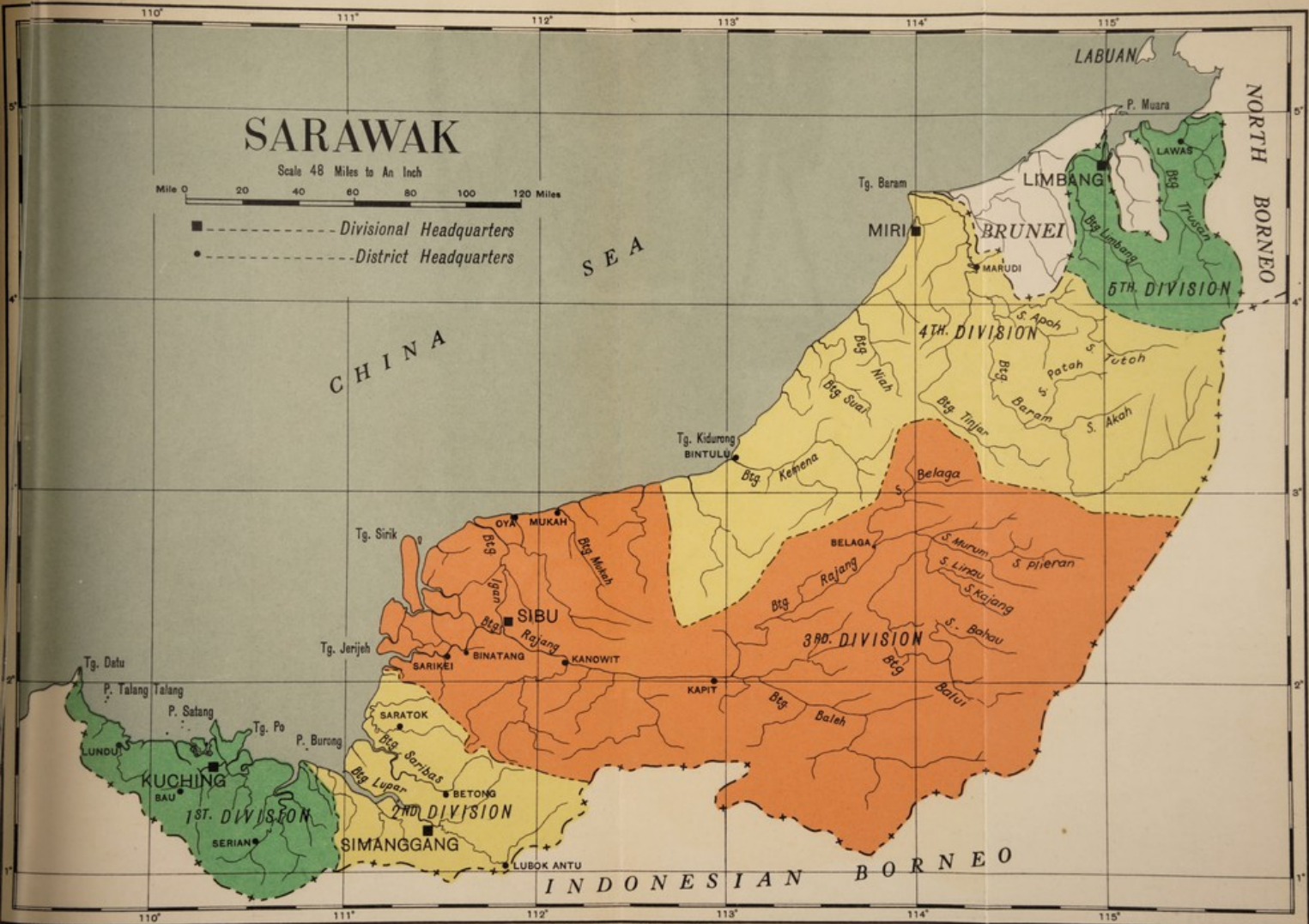


Gunong Ayer	...	1,000,000	—	—	—	600,000	400,000
Sibu	...	1,900,000	—	—	100,000	1,000,000	800,000
		[2,900,000]			[100,000]	[1,600,000]	[1,200,000]
<b>ROADS, BRIDGES &amp; WHARVES</b>							
Road Reconstruction Programme	...	11,485,000	—	—	799,440	4,469,600	6,215,960
Oil Storage Depot, Bukit Biawak	...	184,900	—	—	80,000	104,900	—
Oil Storage, Sungei Merah	...	30,000	27,359	—	2,641	—	—
Serian/Simanggang Road	...	6,380,000	—	—	67,000	2,000,000	4,313,000
Survey Serian/Simanggang Road	...	230,000	—	936	229,064	—	—
Access Road to Kuching airport	...	66,918	66,918	—	—	—	—
		[18,376,818]	[95,213]		[1,178,145]	[6,574,500]	[10,528,960]
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>							
TOWN DEVELOPMENT		7,083,520	5,878		74,840	4,439,140	2,563,662
Limbang Bazaar	...	89,000	—	—	33,000	56,000	—
Berkenu Bazaar	...	86,000	—	—	24,000	62,000	—
Simanggang Bazaar	...	148,500	—	—	—	148,500	—
		[323,500]			[57,000]	[266,500]	
<b>WATER SUPPLIES</b>							
Batu Kitang Scheme	...	3,300,000	—	—	—	2,000,000	1,300,000
Sungei China pipeline	...	307,000	—	—	—	307,000	—
Simunjan	...	65,000	—	—	—	65,000	—
Sarikei	...	400,000	—	—	1,000	300,000	99,000
Bau	...	60,000	2,000	—	58,000	—	—
Miri	...	240,000	—	—	—	150,000	90,000
		[4,372,000]	[2,000]		[59,000]	[2,822,000]	[1,489,000]
<b>WATERWAYS</b>							
Sungei Kut Canal	...	250,000	—	—	15,000	150,000	85,000
<b>DEVELOPMENT STAFF</b>							
SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH		600,000	—	—	6,400	401,486	192,114
		7,903	6,657		715	—	531
Totals \$		41,720,211	383,349		2,559,024	19,206,735	19,571,103











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