

# **Kuching 1950-1959 Sir Anthony Foster Abell's Era**

— Compiled By HO AH CHON —

**2**





# Kuching 1950-1959 Sir Anthony Foster Abell's Era

— Compiled By HO AH CHON —



*Dengan Tulus Ikhlas*  
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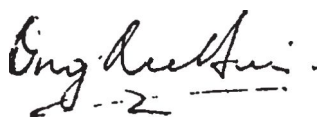


## Preface

This is the 2nd volume of Mr. Ho Ah Chon's book on "Kuching 1950 - 1959 Sir Anthony Abell's Era". This volume contains not only more photographs of Kuching taken during this period but these photographs illustrate the events which mark the social, economic progress of Sarawak while Sir Anthony was Governor until his retirement in November 1959. The articles and reports included in the book are of interest to anyone interested in Sarawak's history.

Mr Ho. Ah Chon has preserved for us in this book pictures of Kuching in the 1950s and various activities and events. For those of us who have lived through these events they bring back many happy memories. Those who do not know Kuching or Sarawak in those days will perhaps be stimulated to find out more. Included in the book are reports compiled from various sources and from these it is evident that considerable development and progress was achieved by Sarawak during this era. Kuching became quite a busy port as can be seen by the boats and ships shown in some of the photographs.

The socio-economic development and the political advancement which occurred during this period are seen in the pictures of new buildings such as the new secretariat, two new cinemas, a new modern hotel (the Aurora), the new museum, science block buildings for the premier schools in Kuching, clubs, Red Cross headquarters, Anti-Tuberculosis Association building and the inauguration of the Kuching Municipal Council and other local authorities in Sibu, Miri, Kapit, and many other events. Of particular interest are reports of speech and political changes which occurred, such as the introduction of elections to local councils and indirect elections to the legislature (Council Negeri) and the executive Council (Supreme Council) toward the end of Sir Anthony's Abell's tenure of office. This book records a rather exciting period of Sarawak's history and to those who know of these events which are depicted in this book it is a valuable memento or souvenir. It should prove a welcome addition to our historical record of Sarawak.



**TAN SRI DATUK ONG KEE HUI**



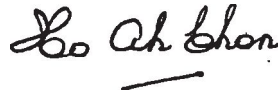


# *Acknowledgement*

The compilation of this No. 5 Pictorial Book is the second volume in the series of Kuching during the Third Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Foster Abell.

The illustrations and descriptions of the various events had been reported through the Sarawak Gazette issued by the Sarawak Government 'Sarawak By the Week' issued by the Sarawak Information Service 'Sarawak Tribune' issued by the Sarawak Press Sdn Bhd and the Kuching Municipal Council Annual Report by the Kuching Municipal Council.

I wish to put on record my grateful and sincere thanks to Tan Sri Ong Kee Hui for the Preface. Mr Au Young Nang Gan A.R.P.S. as well as Mr Lo Sien Fong for their kind permission in using some of their pictures for the publication of this Pictorial Book.



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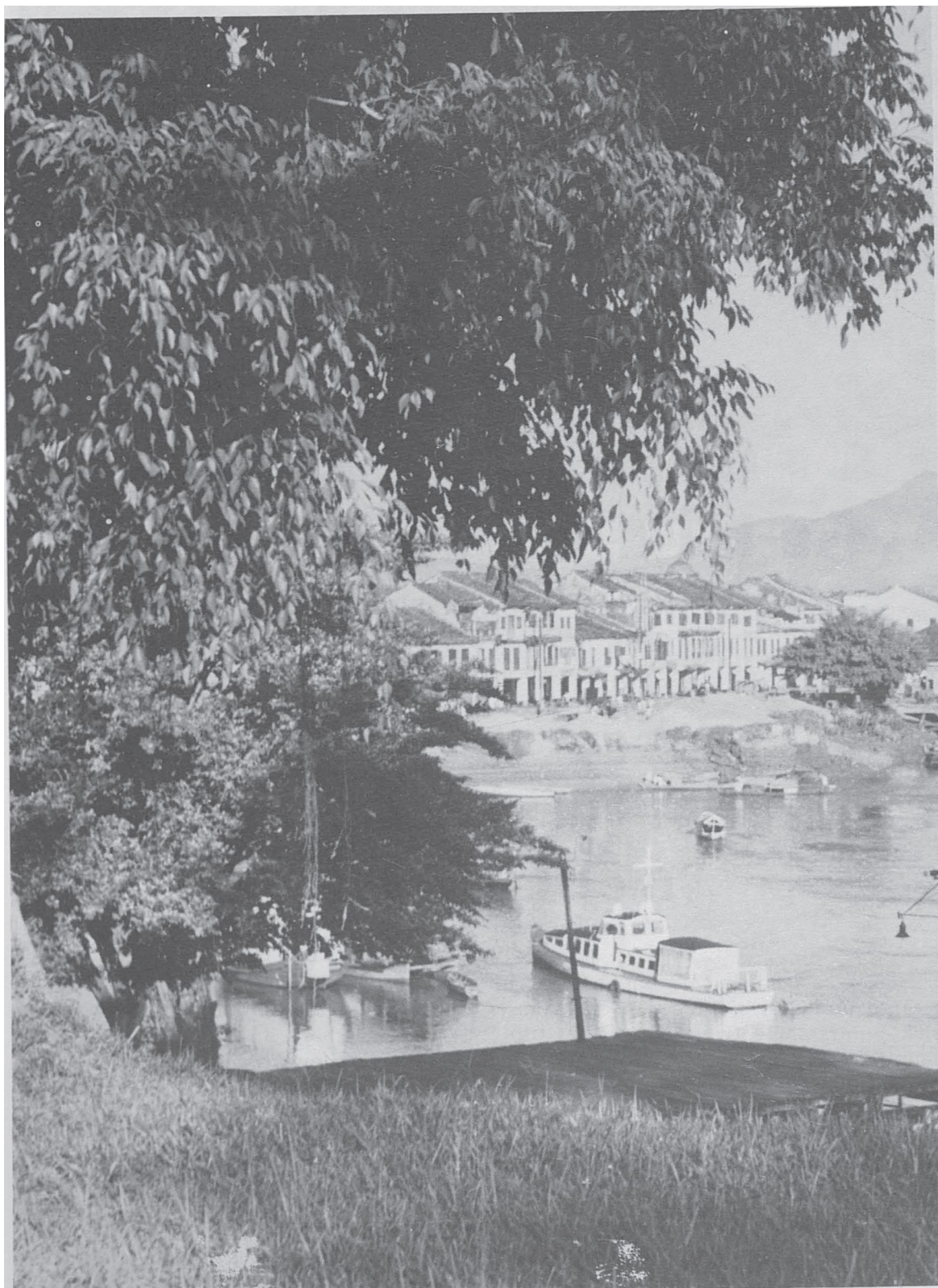
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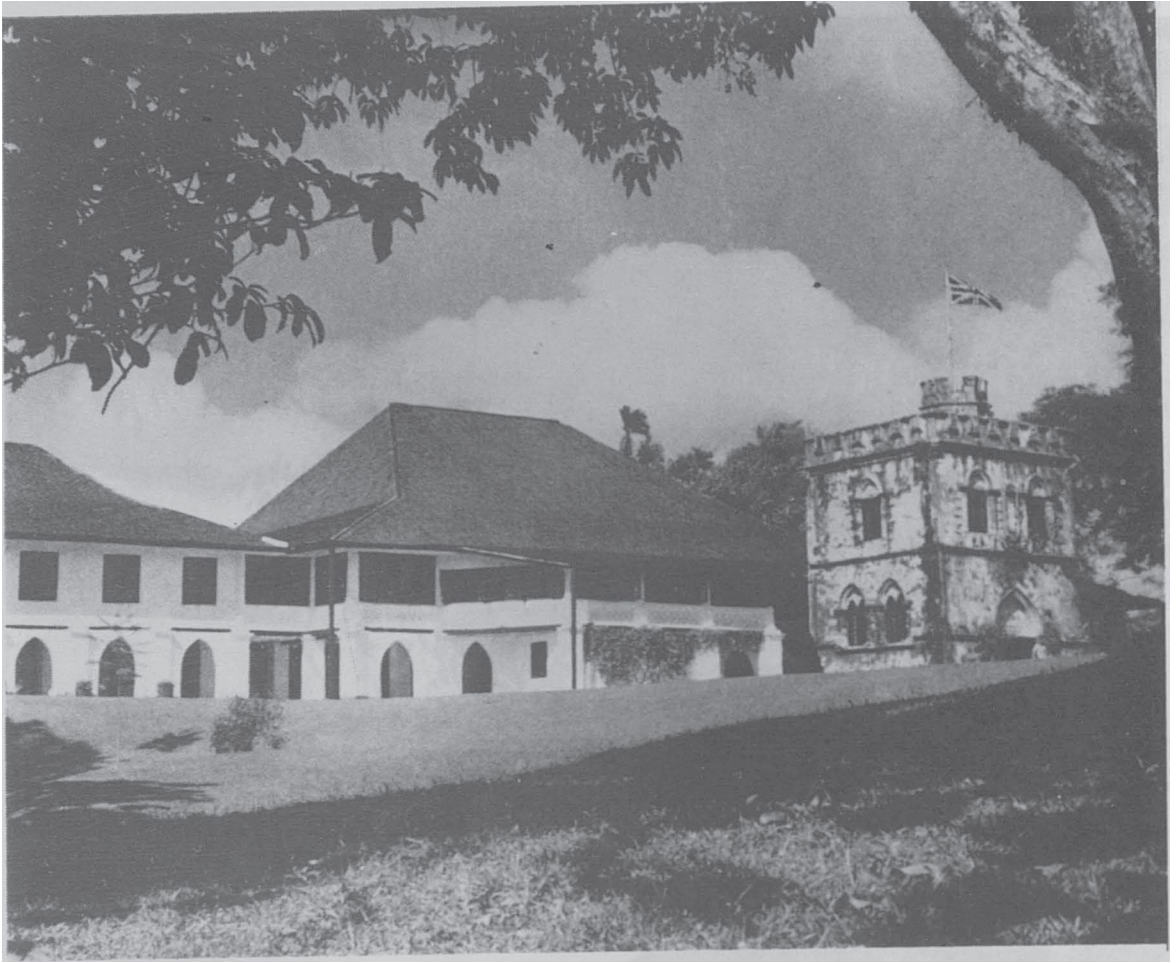


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**KUCHING THE CAPITAL  
OF SARAWAK**



## The Istana (1870)

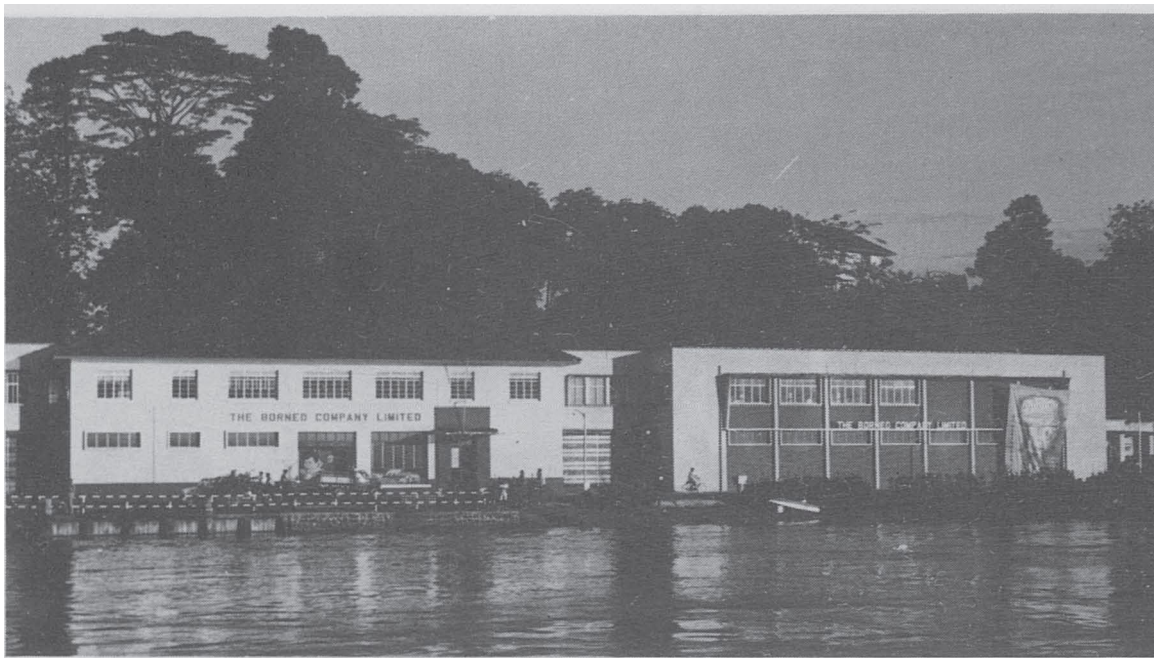
The Istana was originally built in the form of three bungalows, supported by square brick pillars some twenty feet above the ground. The low spreading roof gave shade to the interior. The largest bungalow stands in the centre and contains the reception room, dining and drawing rooms while the smaller bungalow each contains two large bedrooms.

The Istana was first occupied by the Second Rajah Sir Charles Brooke, when he returned with his bride in April 1890 and when he died in 1917, it was occupied by his successor Sir Charles Vyner Brooke.

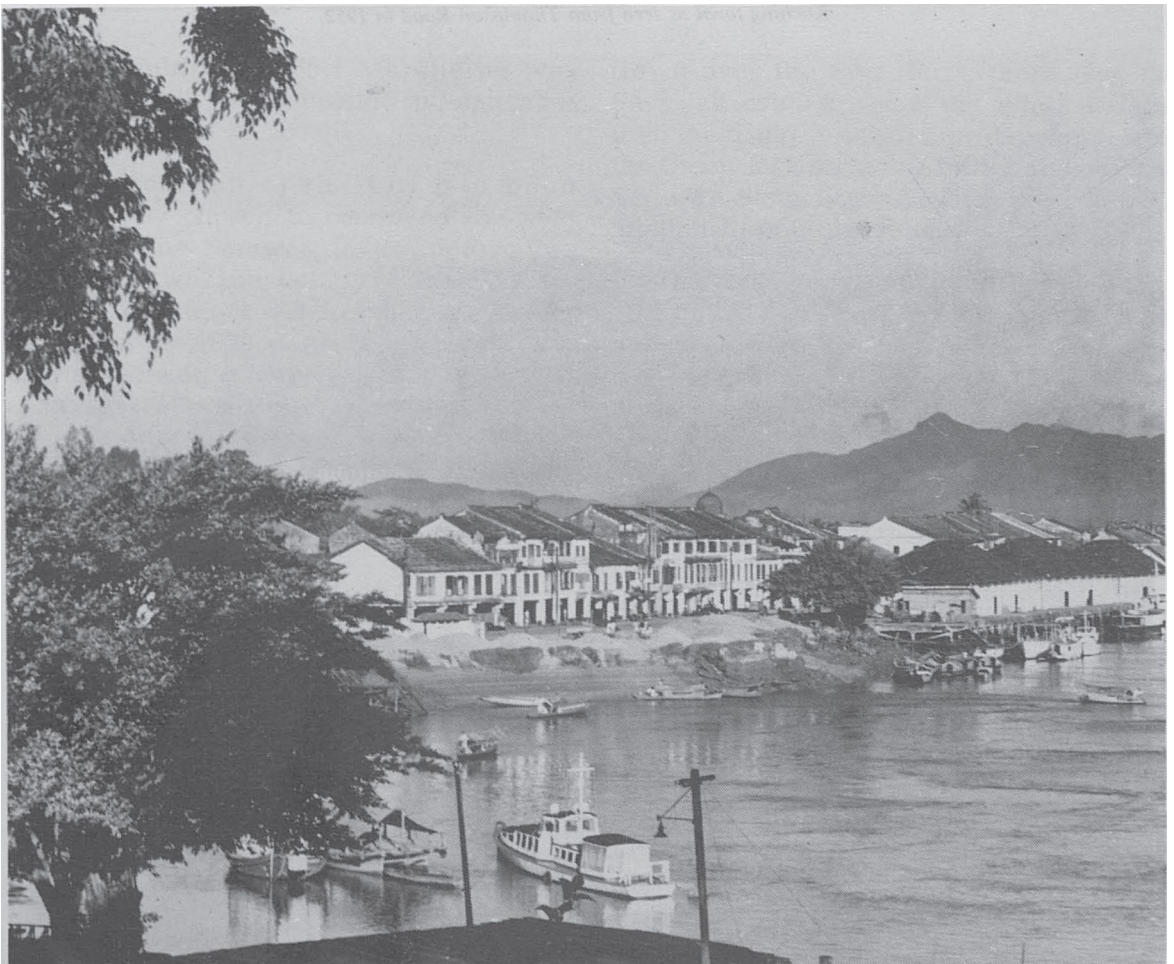
After the Japanese Occupation when Sarawak was ceded, it was occupied by four British Governors, Sir Charles Arden Clark, Mr. Duncan Steward, Sir Anthony Abell and Sir Alexander Waddell.

The Istana, has undergone various alternations and renovations since it was first built. As the official residence of Sarawak's Head of State, the Istana has throughout the years served as the venue for many official functions. Apart from its ceremonial role, it occupies a significant place in the history of Sarawak.

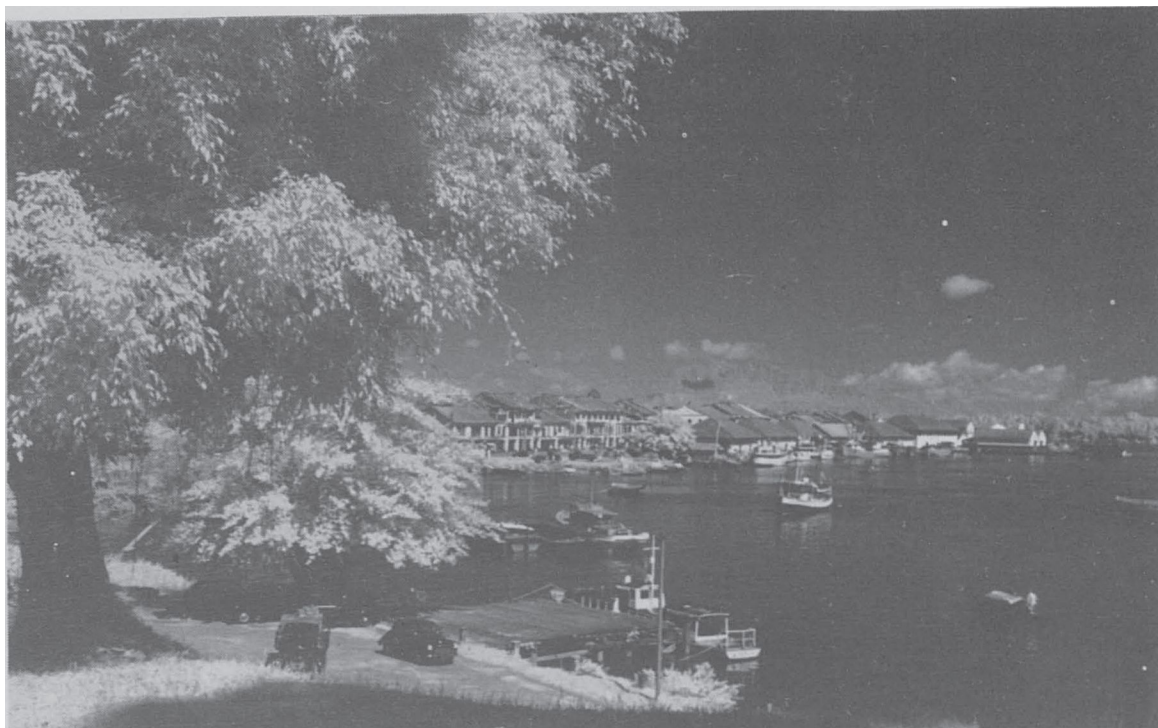




*The buildings of the new Borneo Company Ltd. and the B.C.L. bungalow all facing the waterfront along Thompson Road made up the land mark of Kuching for more than a century.*



*Main Bazaar along the Sarawak River as appeared in 1952.*



*Kuching town as seen from Thompson Road in 1952.*



*Kuching town as seen in 1952.*





## Fort Margherita (1879)

The building of Fort Margherita was started in 1878 and completed in September 1879 at a cost of \$8,200.00.

The position of the fort had been strategically chosen to command the long stretch of the Sarawak River approaching Kuching Town, this being the most advantageous from attack which at that time always by rivers. By 1879, however Sarawak was already passing through a period of relative calm and it was not used as a fortress for defence for which it was originally intended.

The original fort was sited near the present PFF Brigade Headquarters. Unlike the present building, the first Fort was made of local materials. It was completely devastated during the uprising initiated by the "Sam-Tiaw-Kiaw Heuh" or Triad Society from Bau in 1857.

Ironically, the only occasion Fort Margherita came under any real attack was on 19th December 1941, five days before the fall of Kuching town, when it became the target of a Japanese Air raid. Fortunately, no damage was caused. Three different flags under four different administrations have

flown over the Fort. First, there was the Sarawak colours under the White Rajahs, then the rising sun under the Japanese, later the Union Jack under the British and now the Sarawak State flag following the country's attainment of independence.

This three storeyed building has the shape of a square with a bastion protruding from the left side. From the entrance one can see a room, which in the old days was used as office, the upper floors were then quarters of the guards. To the left of the office are two cells occupied formerly by condemned prisoners while awaiting their fate. Parallel to these cells is a corridor that leads out to the position. The corridor ends where an iron gate separates it from the bastion.

Over the years the Fort has been put to use differently. For a time after the war, it was used as training centre for Police personnel undergoing the wireless Telephone Operation's Course. Later, the Fort was converted into Gazetted Officer's mess of the Sarawak Constabulary. When the mess was moved to its present premises at Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, the Fort was loaned to the Civil Defence Corps at Headquarters.



*The Sarawak Steamship wharf, the "Square Tower" at Pangkalan Batu as seen in 1949.*



*The central fish and pork markets of Kuching as seen in 1949.*



*The Bunker Wharf.*





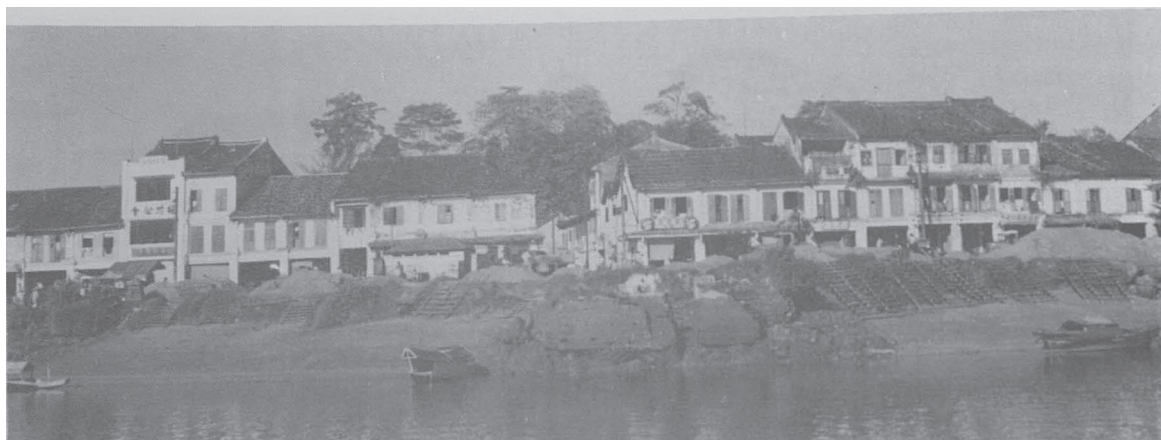
## Chinese Chamber of Commerce (1912)

This building is sited strategically at the same place as the earliest Chinese shop-houses along Main Bazaar and the first Chinese temple to be built in Kuching (the "Tua Pek Kong").

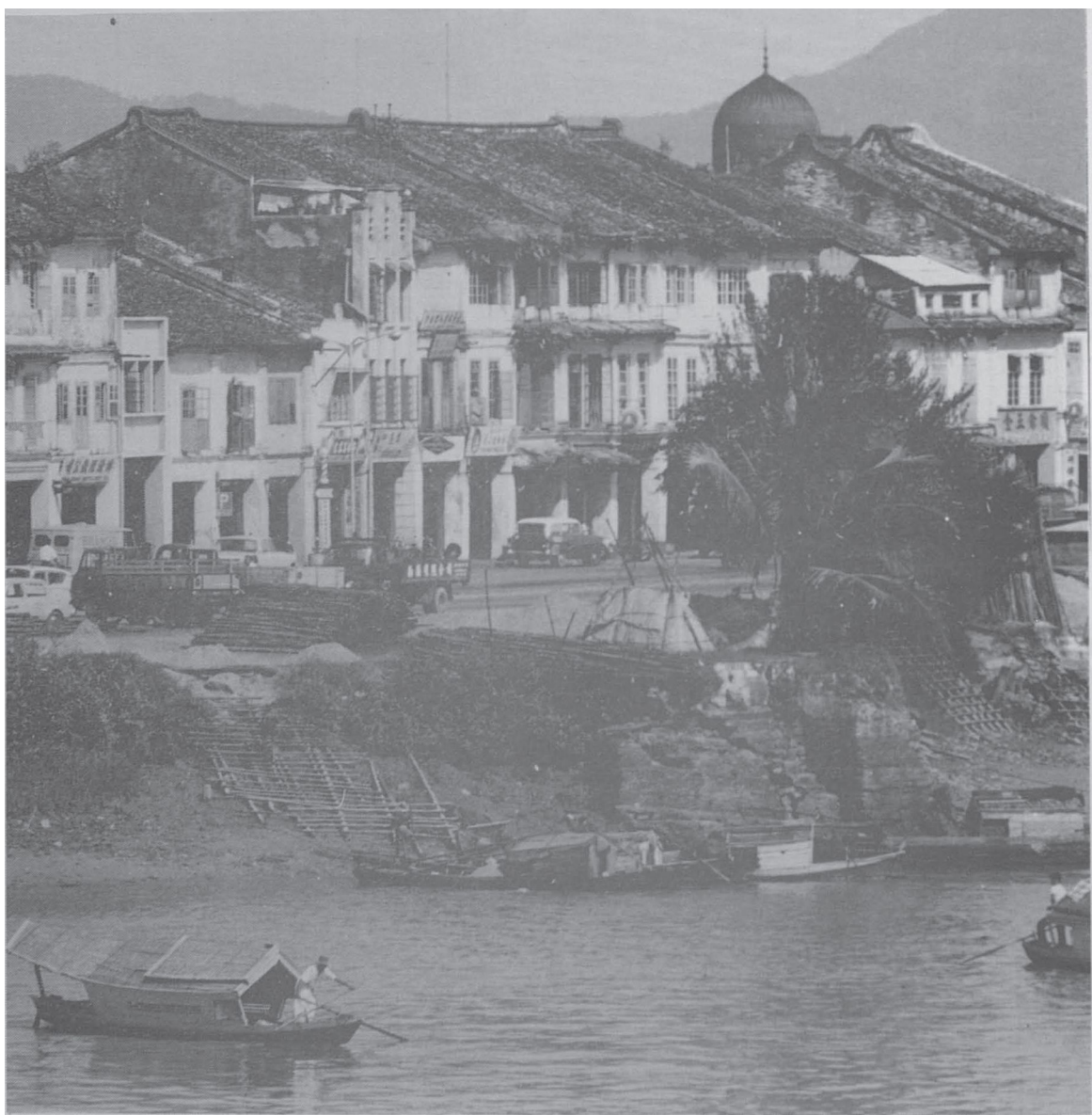
Known as the Chinese Court House when it was first built this building was important as it played an integral part in the evolution of the Chinese Community at the time.



*The Tun Boon Tien jetty.*

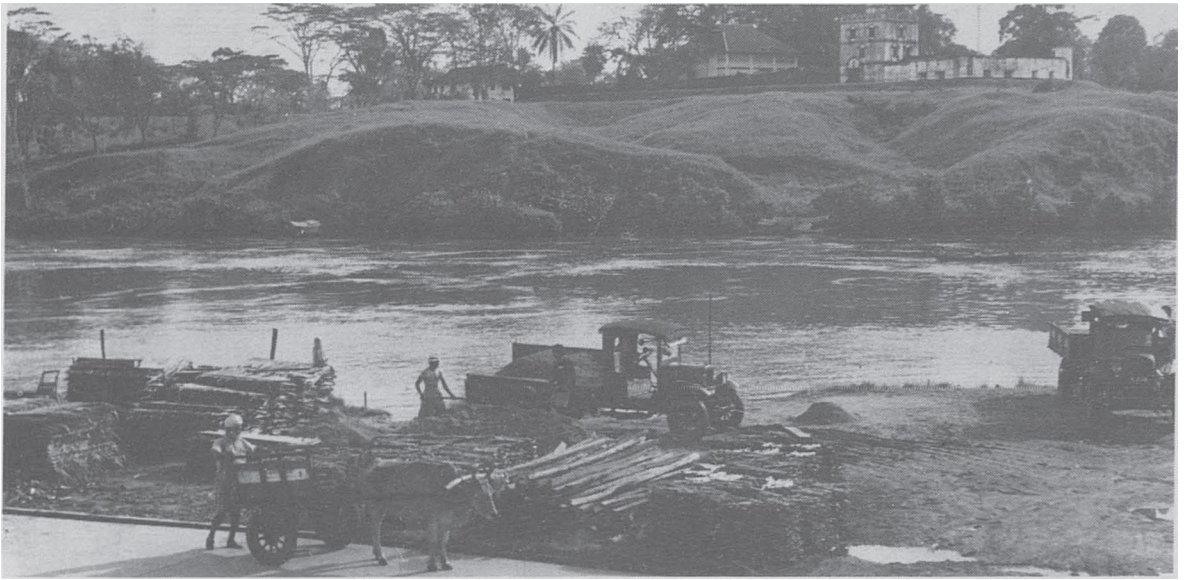


*Main Bazaar as taken at low tide in 1950.*



*A scene of Main Bazaar and its river hank.*





*The oldest means of bullock-cart transportation was re-introduced during the Japanese Occupation period, and also in the earlier days after liberation.*



*An 'happy hour' for keen photographers at the Sarawak River bank.*



*Tambang berthed at Pangkalan Ah Pun, Main Bazaar Kuching.*



*The fish and pork market alongside Sarawak River.*





*Dawn in Sarawak River.*



*An old sailing boat berthed at the mouth of Sungei Kuching*



*A speed-boat loaded with water melons arriving in Kuching from a coastal area.*



*A rowing boat with a full load of clay for a brick kiln.*



*Tambang plying to and fro was the means of water communication for Malays living across river.*





*Apart from the first tambang the rest were the typical Chinese trading boats in the old days.*



*Prahus transporting water melons berthed at the bank of 'Sungai Kuching'.*

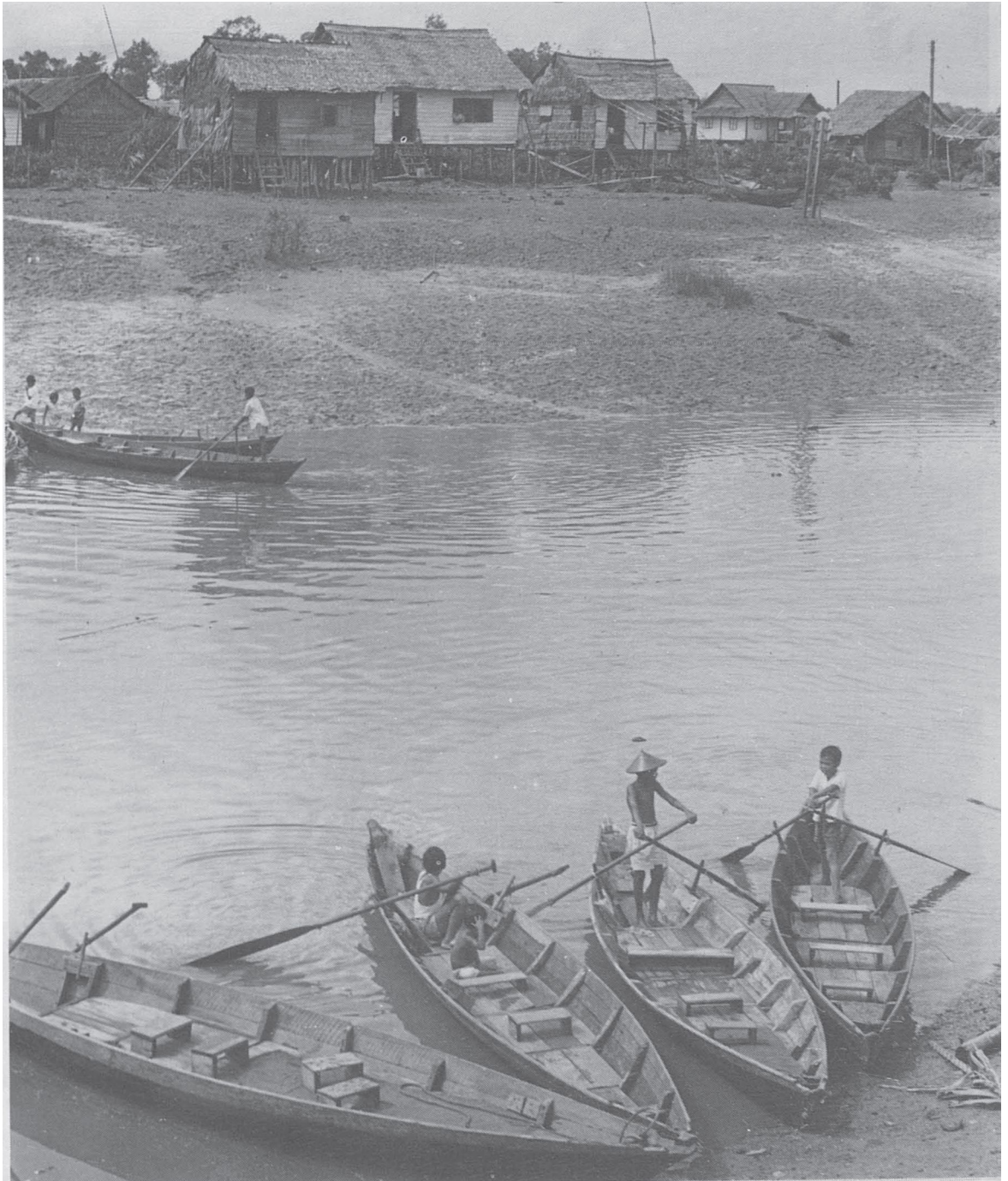


*Off loading of sand in the old way.*



*Sand transporting prahus and Malay sand vendors at work at the bank of Main Bazaar, Kuching.*

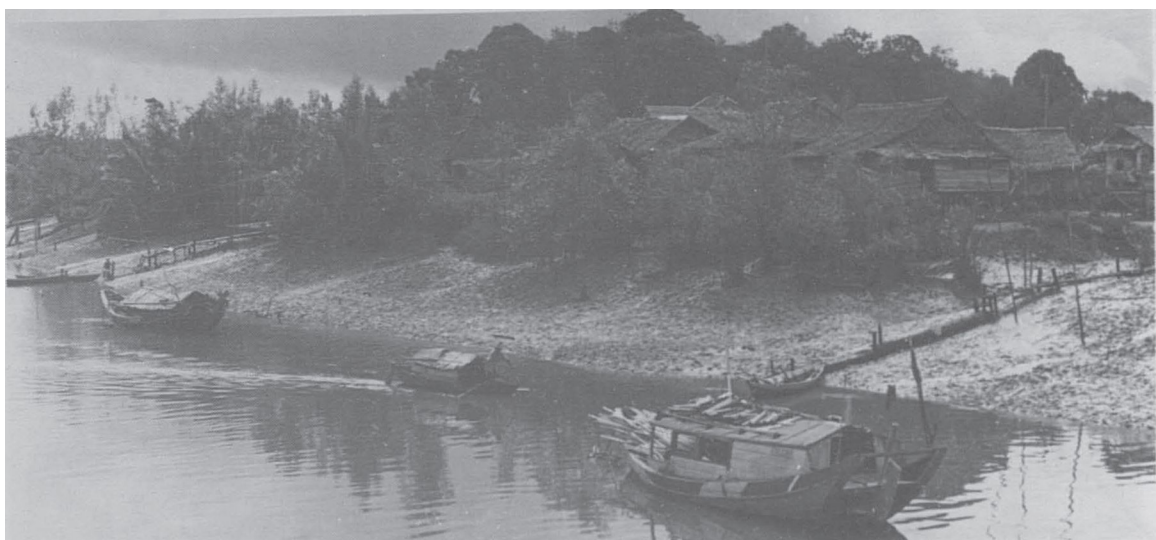




*A Malay kampong ai Sungei Apong, Kuching. 1950.*



*A Malay kampong at Sungei Apong, Kuching.*



*Low tide of Sungei Apong.*

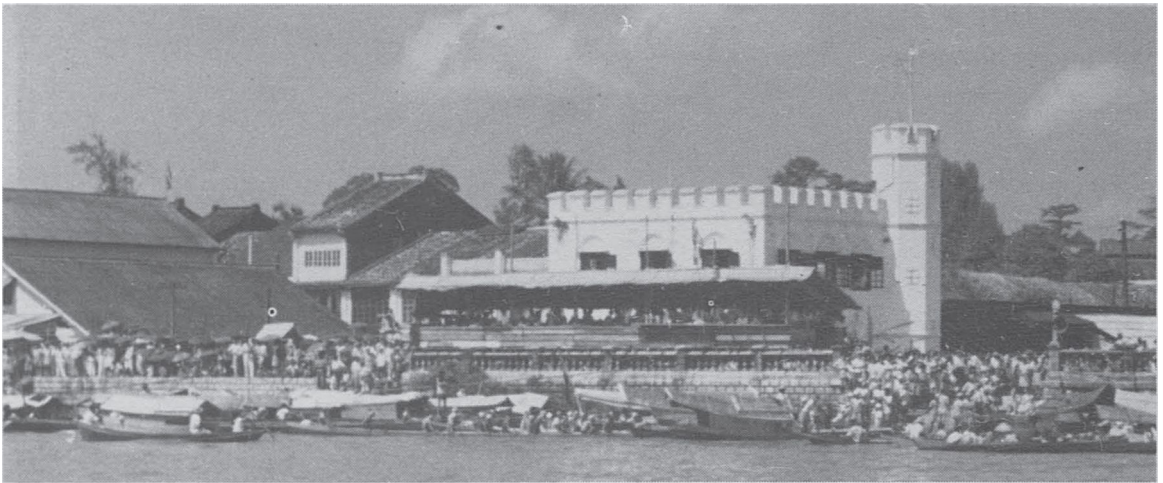


*Attap leaves (for roofing) arriving from the coastal areas pending for sale.*

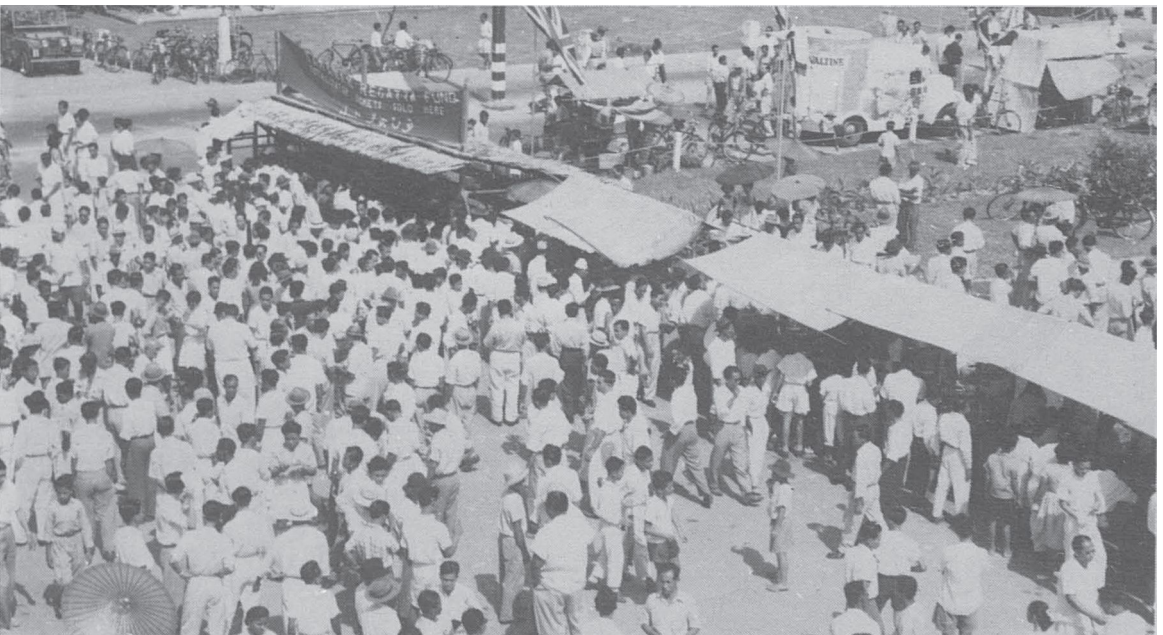




*Various types of boats assembled in Kuching to watch the Regatta.*



*Pangkalan Batu (finishing point) the grand stand.*



*People attending the Regatta.*

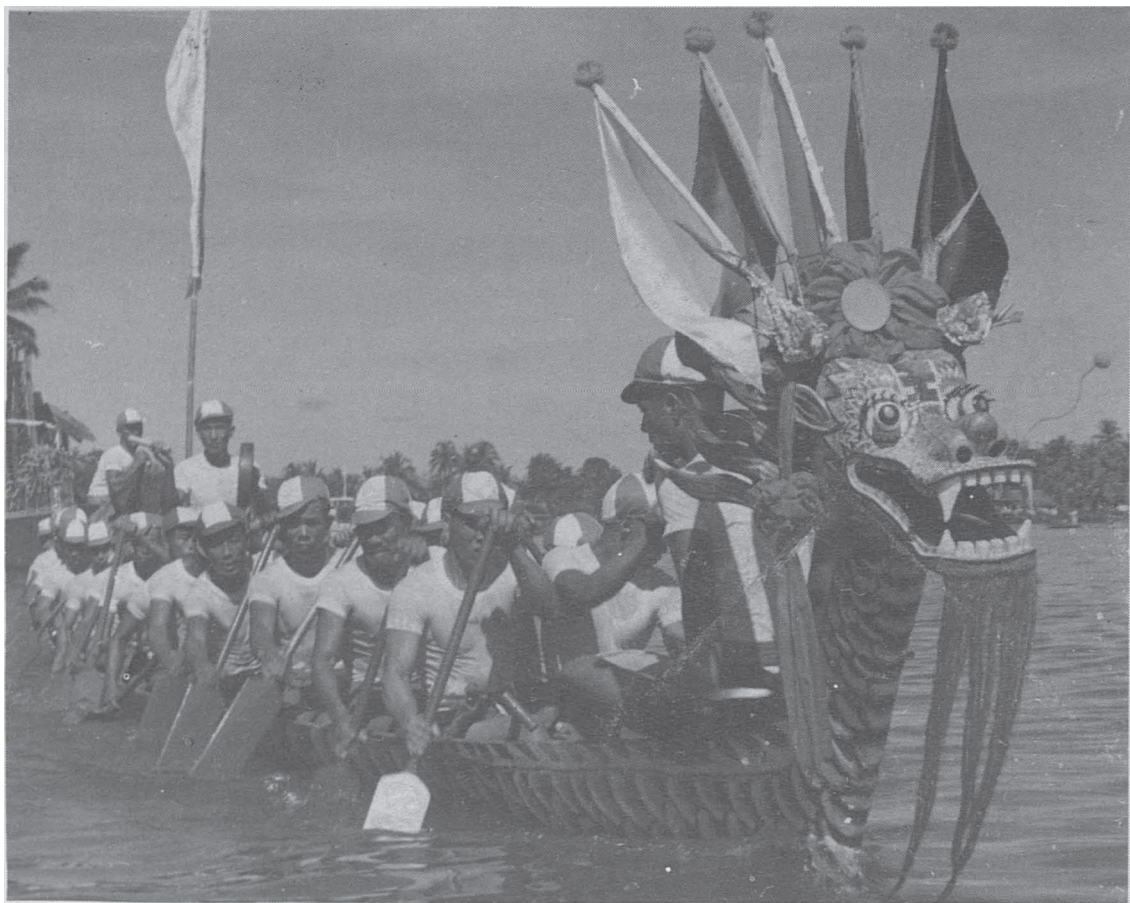


*The very exciting event of the Annual Regatta was out board race competition.*



*On the racing days large crowds of spectators of all races crowded together on the river front of Pangkalan Batu.*





*On the way to the starting point.*



*Spectators watching the Regatta at the Main Bazaar along river bank.*



*Watching the Regatta.*

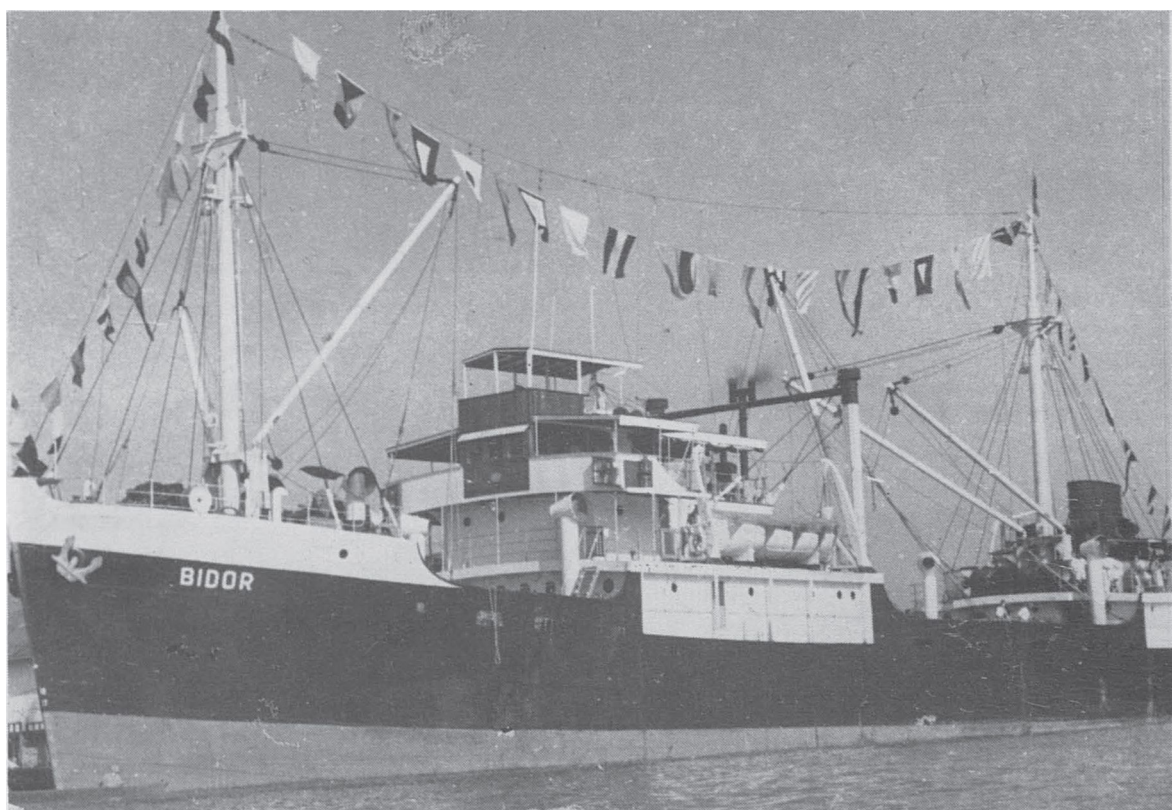


*The race is in progress.*





*M.V. Angby berthed by the side of the Sarawak Steamship Company's Wharf.*



*M. V. Bidor owned by the Sarawak Steamship Company.*

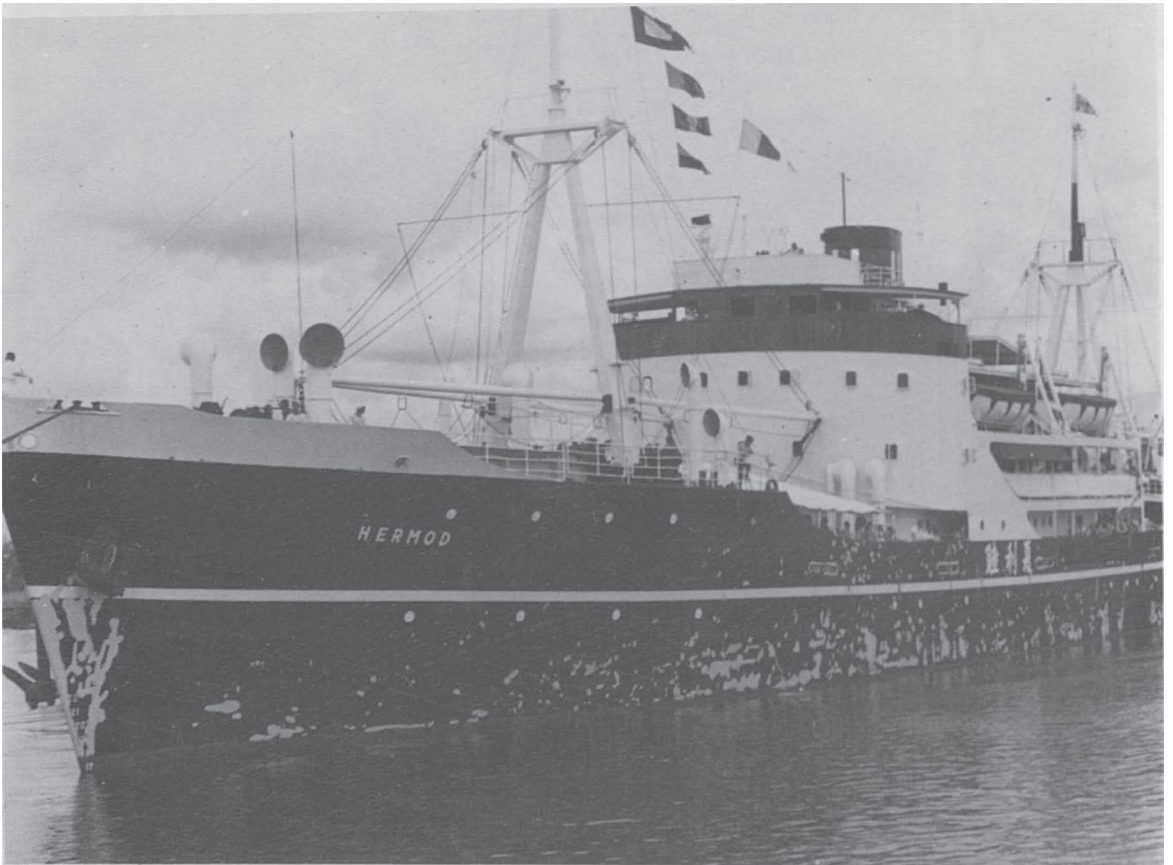
The rivers and the sea are the principal means of communication, there were few roads and only two airports in the country in the year 1952.

throughout the year between Kuching and Singapore by vessels of the Sarawak Steamship Company, Straits Steamship Company vessels continued to call at Pending to and fro North Borneo.

Regular sailings were maintained



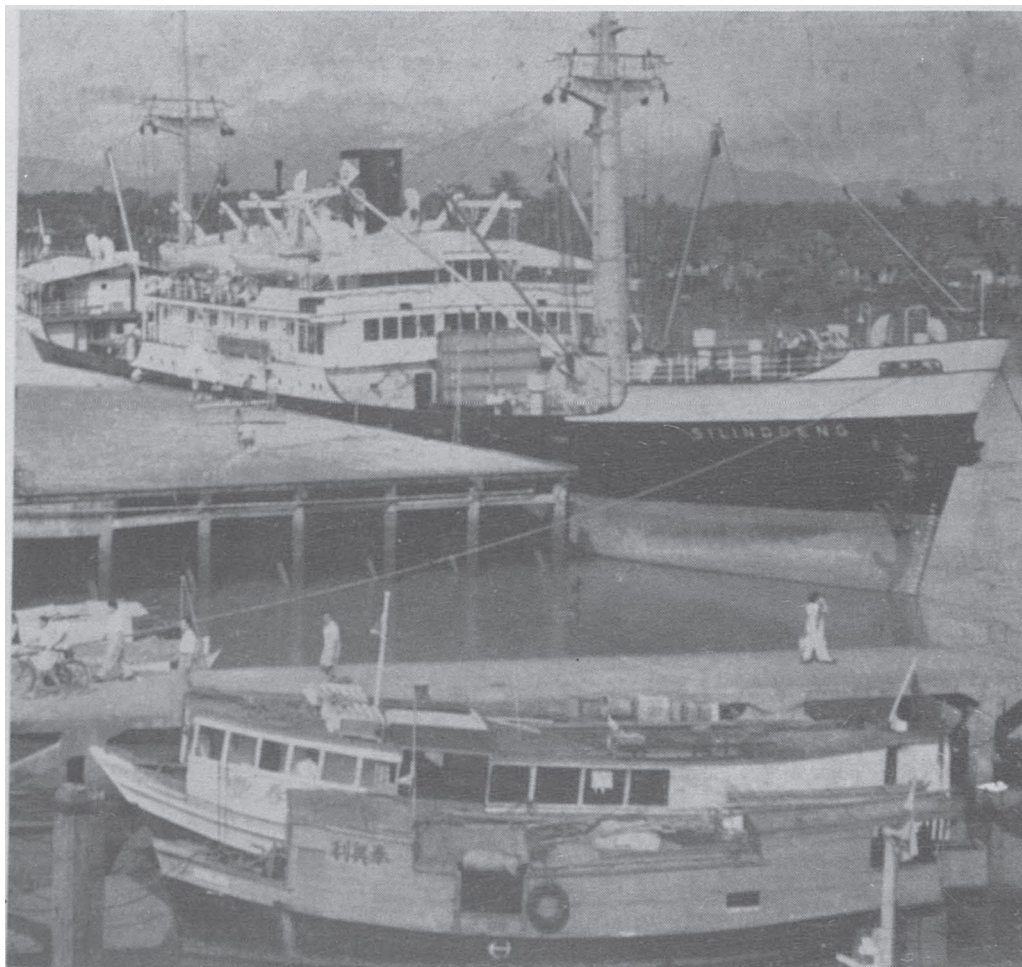
*M.S. Hervar*



*M.S. Hermod owned by the Norwegian Asia Line in the Sarawak River.*

The Norwegian Asia Line owned M.S. Apart from bringing in general cargoes, it  
Hendrik, Hervar, Harmod, Helios made regu- accepted first and second passengers,  
lar terms between Kuching and Hong Kong.





*M. V. Silindoeng of Royal InterOcean Lines, the first ship on the direct route between Australia and Sarawak berthed at Kuching Ban Hock Wharf.*



*Straits Steamship passenger/cargo vessel "Rajah Brooke" entering Kuching on her regular schedule from Singapore.*



*Rowing boats with full load of bako wood in the stream of Petanak Road seen in the 50's.*



*The typical Henghua Kotaks could be seen in the 50's in the stream at Petanak Road, usually painted in vivid colours and with the traditional eyes in the bows.*

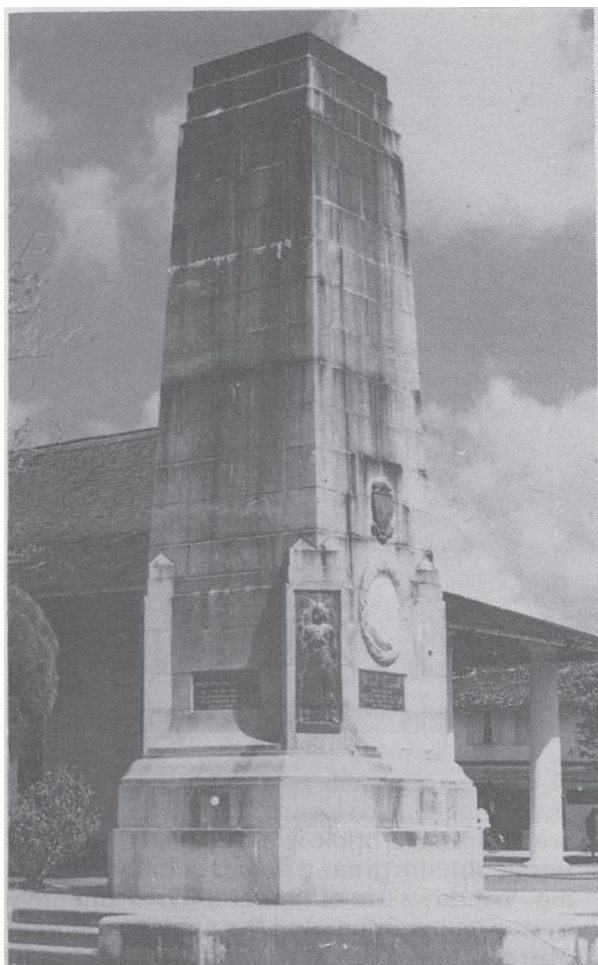


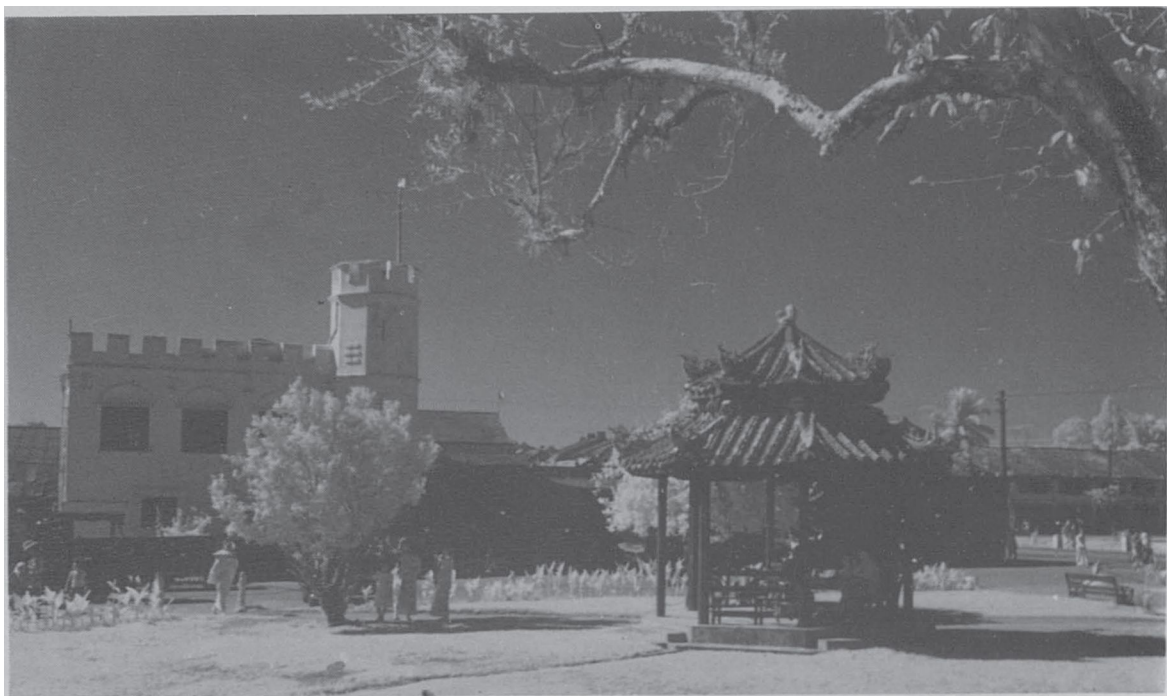


## The Court House 1874

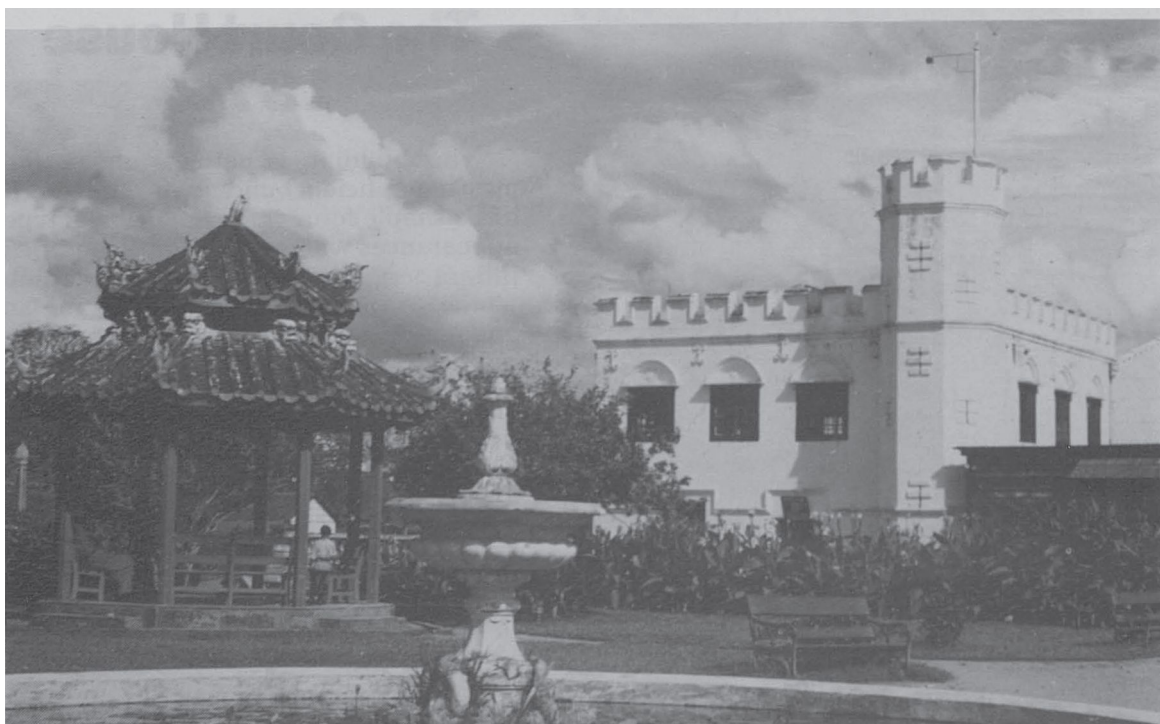
This building is perhaps one of the most magnificent buildings in Sarawak. It has a simple form and plain colonial type appearances with massive tapering brick pillars supporting the wide verandah which provides an ideal shade for an equatorial country. The main entrance is by a broad flight of steps leading to the square-like portico with four twin columns at each corner and a single column in between on the side. The small balcony in the front is perhaps an influence from the Romanticism period with ornamental carved railings. The use of the big massive columns was probably an influence from Roman Court Houses. From the inception of this building up to 1973 all Council Negri Meetings commencing with the fifth in 1878 had been held there. It has been the scene of many historic occasions. The Clock Tower was added in 1883 and the Charles Brooke Memorial in 1924.

In front to the Court House is the Memorial to Charles Brooke, the second Rajah. It was unveiled in 1924, and is made of granite. Inset into each corner is a bronze panel depicting a Malay, a Dayak, a Chinese and a Kayan, and on the side facing the river is a marble relief of





*The Bund garden at Pangkalan Batu.*



Charles Brooke's head. Below it, on a bronze table is an inscription giving the principal dates of his life and reign. Above are the old crest and coat of arms of Sarawak.

The fortress resembles the late English Renaissance fortresses and towers. It was built for the detention of prisoners and later used as a fort and dancing hall during the Brooke era. Square in plan the fortress displays influence

of ancient English spires with a quasi — circular octagonal tower at one end. The walls are of massive brick work which is rendered throughout; the ground floor is of timber boarding. Windows are of timber louvres and have semi circular arches and the parapet walls are pierced to allow for guns emplacement. Aesthetically, the fort is serene looking and has practically no ornamentation.





*The typical two storey old shophouses of the Main Bazaar in 1962.*

Main Bazaar is the oldest street in the town though it is only a few years older than India Street, Court House Road, Gambier Road or Carpenter Street, and they all provide delight for the observant who strolls along the old five-foot ways. Ferns and tree grow extremely well from small crevasses in the walls, or with moss, rampage over old tiled roofs.



*The Teochew Association building along Main Bazaar was renovated by the Japanese during the occupation period.*



*Bicycles were most commonly used as the means of transport while mosquito buses plying for passengers to and fro in the streets.*





*Dawn at Main Bazaar.*



*Main Bazaar scene by night as seen in 1950.*



*The bus station in 1950.*

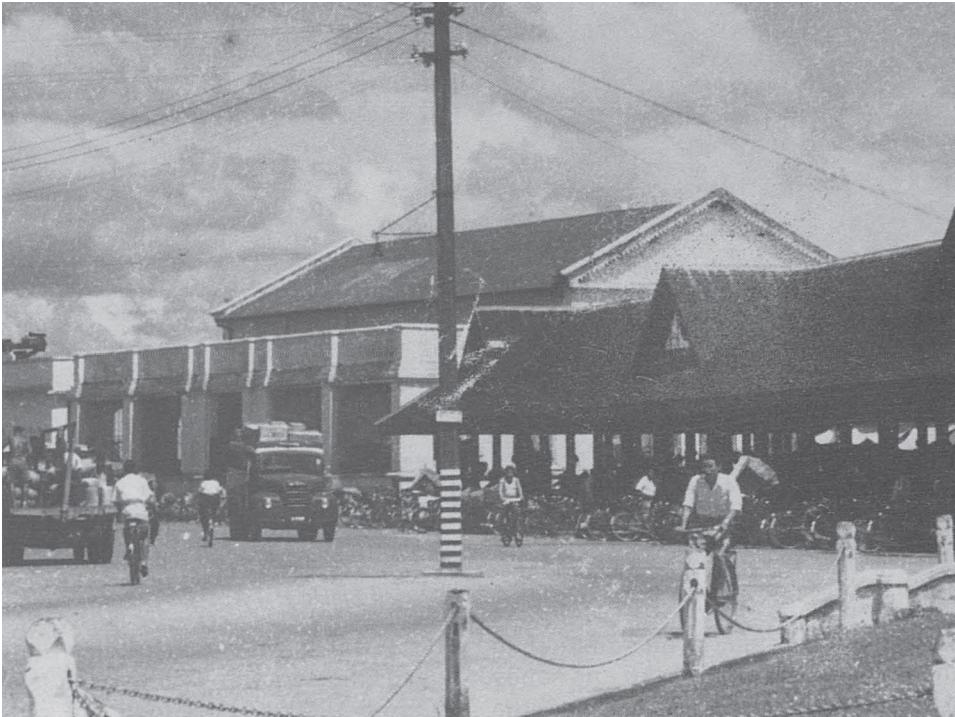


## **The Indian Mosque (1876)**

This is well hidden away between India Street and Gambier Road, but it can be reached by going down the small passage way between numbers 37 and 39 India Street. Mrs. McDougall mentions that an Indian Mosque in a letter in the 1850's, but his earlier building had had only fragile kajang walls, and a roof made of ataps. In 1876, new timber walls were erected and a new roof was made from belian shingles. The concrete floor was

added at a latter date. In design, it differs from the usual Malay Mosque in that the foundation for ablution is away from the main entrance. The mosque was built by Southern Indian Moslems for their own use, and at first other Indians were not allowed to pray here, but later this rule was relaxed. The Board of Trustees is the only body in Sarawak to hold religious classes in Arabic.





*The vegetable, fish, pork and poultry markets provide a scene of colourful activity.*



*Even rickshaw man must rest. A rickshaw man in front of the vegetable market, along Cambier Road, in 1950.*



*The Kuching Municipal Council Building.*

Barrack Road was made and named in 1911 when Police Barracks for sikh and sepoy police men were built on both sides from India Street up to the present Central Police Station.

The Barracks were dismantled when the new Police Quarters were built at Badruddin Road in about 1930, but the road still keeps its old name.



## **Khoo Hun Yeang Street**

Mr. Khoo Hun Yeang was the senior partner of the Opium and Arrack (spirit) Farms in the days when the government used to let out the monopoly or sole right to deal in

the sale of opium and to produce arrack.

This street is called after him because he built all the houses in 1902.





*The Central Police Station, Kuching.*



**Masjid Besar**

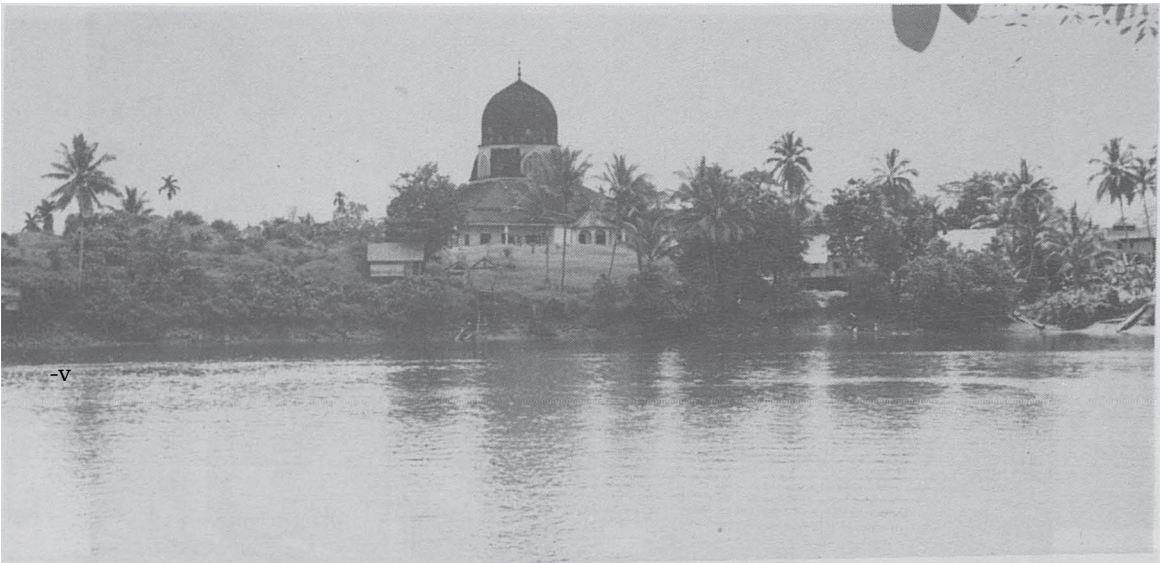
The old mosque was the oldest mosque in Sarawak and has stood as an Islam symbol for more than 100 years. It was built in 1847 by the families of Datuk Patinggi Ali, the famous Malay leader. The structure of the mosque was simple, mostly made of wood and resembled a Malay house of the period.

The first Iman was Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Gapur, son-in-law of Datuk Patinggi Ah. He was succeeded by Datuk Patinggi Ali's son Datuk Bandar Haji Bolhassan. The third Iman was Dato Iman Abdul Karim who was later succeeded by Abang Haji Matiam another son of Datuk Patinggi Ah.

In 1880 when cement was imported into Sarawak, this mosque was reinforced by bricks and concrete pillars with cemented floors, but the roof was belian attap. In 1929, the Datuk and the people of this country with the help of the Rajah's Government renovated the mosque by building a dome, windows and a pulpit which could be seen that time. In 1930s the Masjid Besar was the most beautiful building, but also largest in this country and since then the dome was the pride of Kuching.

This is a brief history of the mosque. Since 1947, more changes were introduced then to suit modern times.





*A scene of Masjid Besar as seen from across river.*



*Masjid Besar was the most beautiful building and also largest in this country.*



*A funeral procession along the Gartak Street in 1953.*



*The shophouses on both sides of India Street in 1950.*





*The street scene "School Lantern" procession during 1953 Queen Elizabeth II coronation celebration seen at Carpenter Street.*





*The Carpenter Street as seen in 1950.*



*The street scene "School Lantern" procession during 1953 Queen Elizabeth II coronation celebration by Sekolah Ra'ayat of Kg. Bintangor.*



*The oil palm trees along the McDougall Road in 1950.*

## McDougall Road

When the government decided to make a road through the ground of the Anglican Mission in Kuching it was only fitting that they should name it after Bishop Mc Dougall, a pioneer of the Christian Church in Sarawak and the first Bishop of Labuan and Sarawak as the diocese was then called the Bishop Mc Dougall was also known as Doctor of Medicine, in his early days he was also a doctor. He arrived in Sarawak in 1848 and built the old cathedral and the present Bishop's House with the assistance of a German carpenter. He also started St. Thomas' School in the same year with only six pupils.

In 1885 he was made a Bishop, but in addition to his work for the church, he also gave a great deal of his time attending the sick and injured persons, especially during the insurrection in 1857 when there was no doctor in Kuching. He also cured many people during the cholera epidemics which were so frequent when people had to drink the river water.

After nearly twenty years in Sarawak, Bishop Mc Dougall, tired after so many years of hardship and danger, resigned in 1867 and died in England in 1886.





*The Rt. Rev. Francis Thomas Mc Dougall built the wooden cathedral of neogothic design with the assistance of a German carpenter on the hill behind the bazaar in 1857. It was demolished in 1956 after the completion of the new St. Thomas' Cathedral.*



### **The Diocesan (1886)**

The Diocesan (1886) (the tallest building at the centre in the picture).

The Diocesan Centre for the Anglican Mission this building was originally the family house of Mr. Ong Tiang Swee, first elected president of the Chinese Court and close confidant of the White Rajahs. When the Ong's

family house was moved to Rock Road the premises was used as the boarding house for St. Mary's School. The exterior facade has been renovated but the interior still retains much of the timber work which has been preserved.



### **The Bishop's House (1849)**

Built in 1849, a year after the arrival of Reverend Thomas Francis Mc Dougall and Mrs Harriette Mc Dougall (who was chosen by Rajah James Brooke to head the mission in Sarawak because Reverend Mc Dougall had previously been a surgeon) the Bishop House is said to be the oldest dwelling house in Sarawak. Its original structure was constructed completely of wood. The ground floor was reinforced by bricks, mortar and plaster

some thirty six years later. In 1912 the building was renovated with the addition of a garage, bathrooms and a porch, which was an extension from the sitting room upstairs. The latter commanded a panoramic view to the west of Kuching. The first mission school was started here and later expanded to become St. Thomas's School (for boys) and St. Mary's School (for girls).





*A funeral procession along the Mc Dougall Road in 1953.*



*Mc Dougall Road as seen in 1955.*



*This is one of the oldest roads in Kuching and was called Rock Road.*



### **The Round Tower (1886)**

One of the first buildings to be constructed after the 1884 fire which gutted the Carpenter Street area, the Round Tower was actually the town dispensary. Built entirely of bricks and resembling a fort, is commonly thought that it

was intended to act as a fort in an emergency, Later the building was used by the Labour Department up till 1980. Recently, it houses a section of the Judicial Department,





Gazetted as being the only building to employ the use of Corinthian columns in the facade treatment, the General Post Office building stands majestically in the centre of Kuching.

Careful attention was given to the facade

treatment with semi-circular arches and ornamental column capitals and friezes. The rear of the building however is simple and austere.

Deep parapet walls of plain design hide the pitch roof and a colonnaded portico serves as a corridor.



*These were the cars in those old days parking in the centre of Rock Road.*

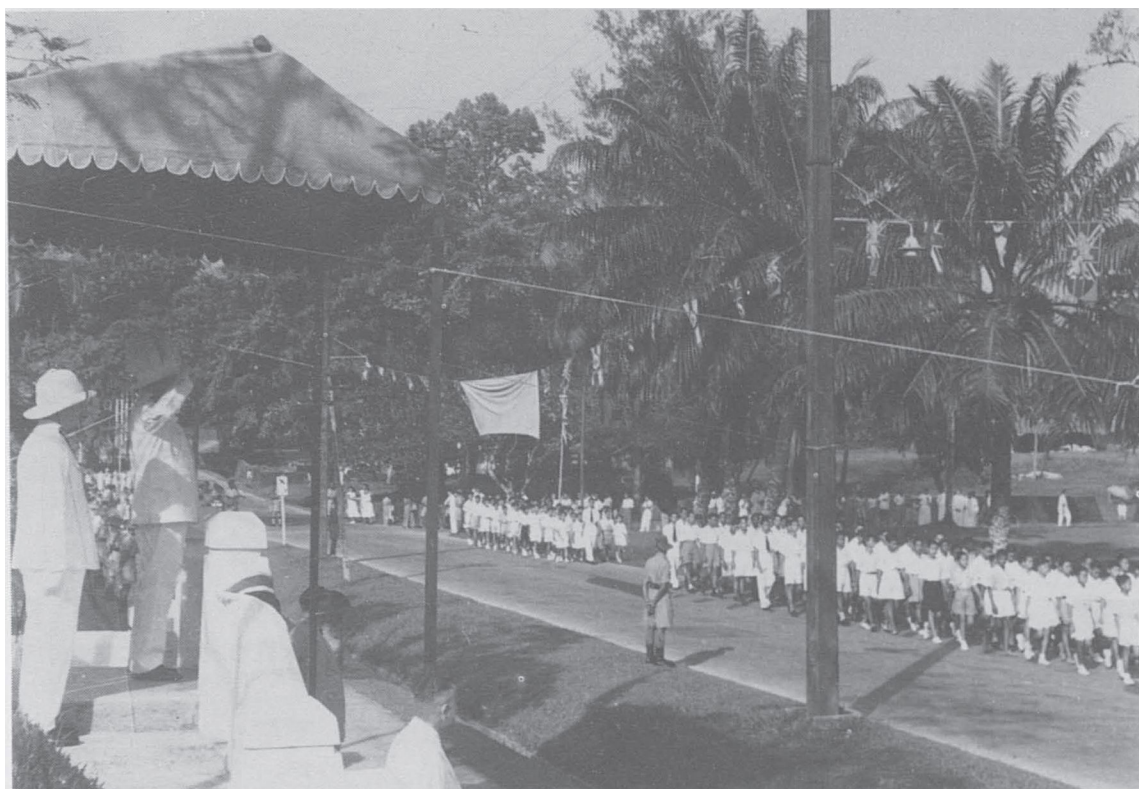


## The Pavilion (1909)

The "Pavilion" as it was known in 1909 when it was set up as the Medical Headquarters, now houses the Educational Media Service Office. The origin of the building design is uncertain but it is certainly totally different from any other building erected during the period. As medical different from any other building erected during that period.

As medical Headquarters, the ground floor was used for consulting rooms, a laboratory and offices whilst a nursing home dominated the first floor sited opposite the General Post Office and besides the "Round Tower" the building was also used at one time as the Education Department Headquarters, Sarawak.





*His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G. was at the Saluting Base.*



*A Mass Parade of the school children on Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Day on 2nd June, 1953. The school children Mass Parade took about fifty minutes to pass through the Saluting Base at Rock Road.*



*The Sarawak Museum, a collection of historic and artistic value unrivalled in all South East Asia. The collection has grown steadily both in quantity and quality until today you will hear beyond Sarawak's borders "When you are in Kuching, whatever you do, don't miss the museum!"*

## The Sarawak Museum (1891)

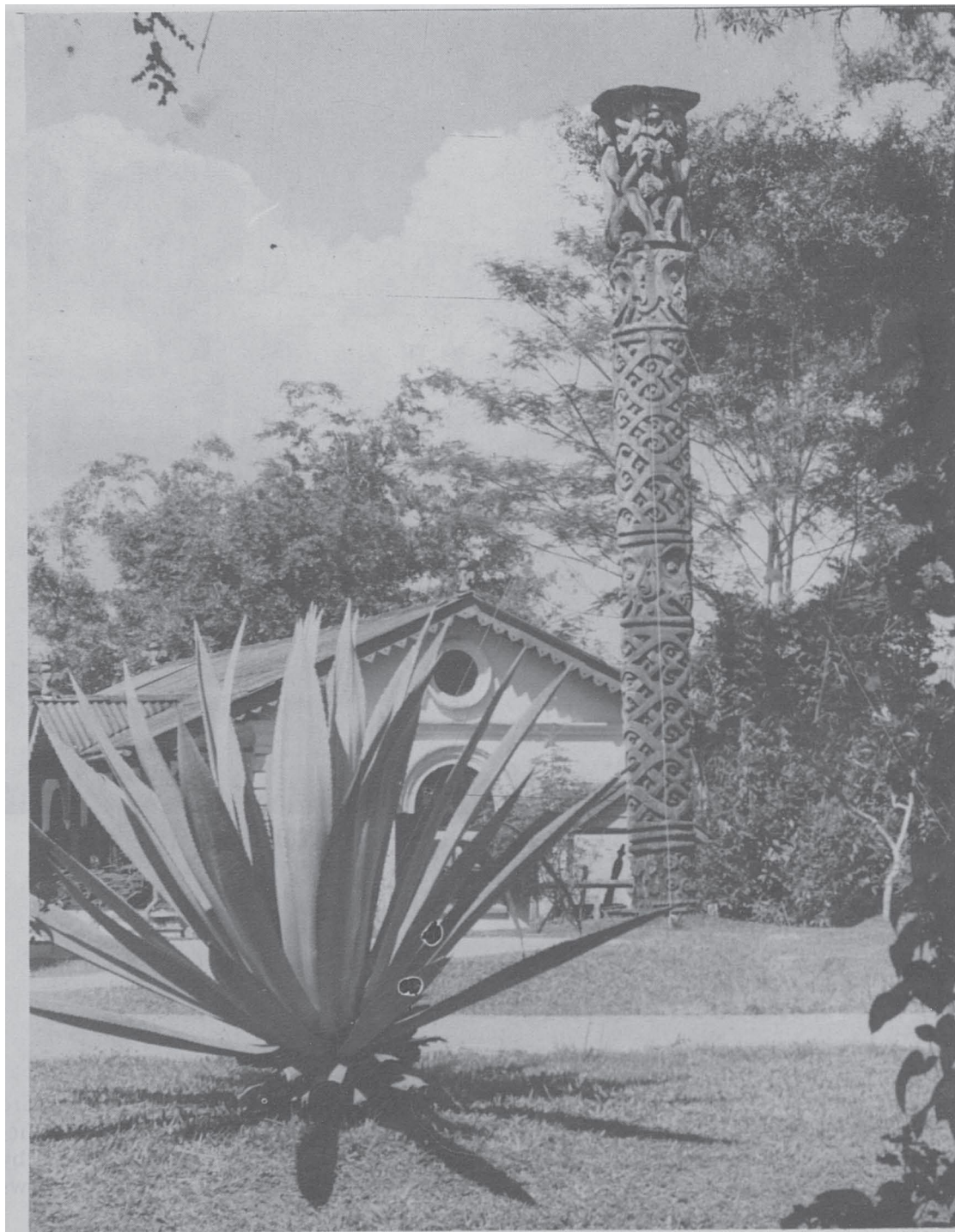
The Sarawak Museum, built during the reign of Rajah Brooke, was especially built to permanently house and display local natives' arts and crafts and collections of local animals as mainly encouraged by the famous naturalists, Alfred Wallace, who was collecting specimen in Sarawak in 1855.

Since its inception, the building has undergone several renovations and alternations. It is rectangular (44' x 160') with walls and pillars of bricks and roof of belian and

concrete. It has a European architecture imposing edifice in Queen Ann style (Victorian period). The galleries are lighted by dormer windows in the roof which thus allows a great area of wall space.

During the Japanese Occupation (1941 - 1945), the Museum was put under the direction of a sympathetic Japanese Officer. As a result, the Museum suffered very little damage and remarkably little looting.





*A fascinating Dayak Tetam (Klirieng) in the Museum ground.*

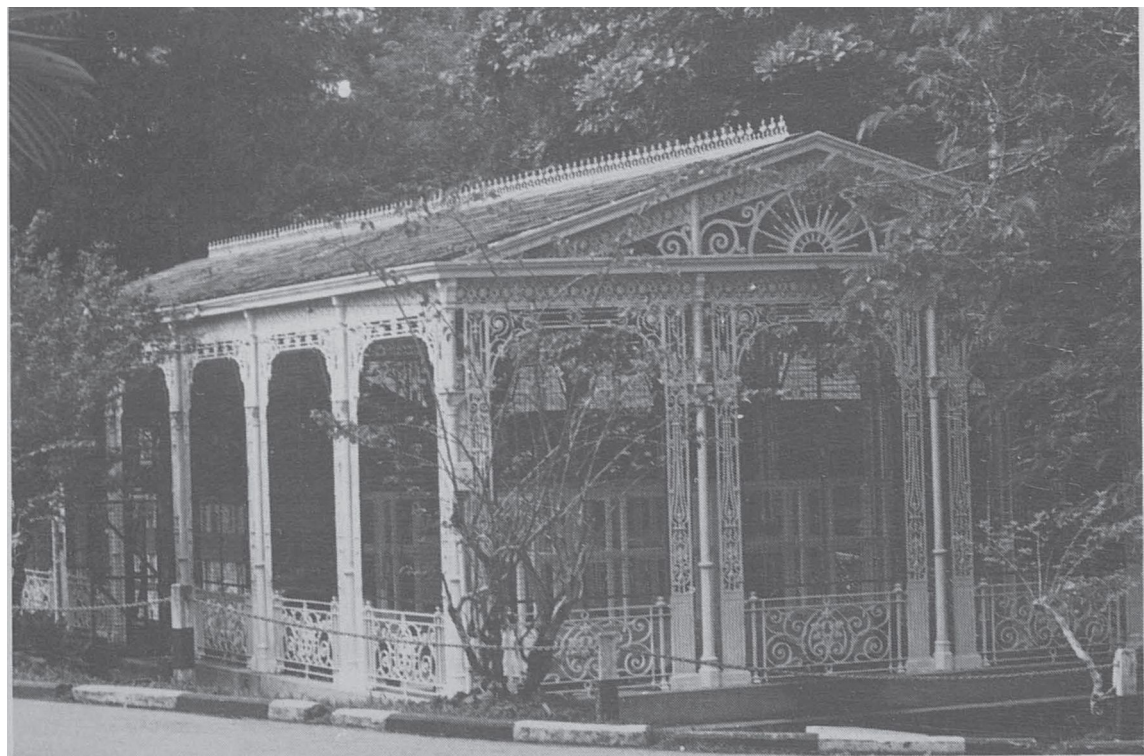
The elaborate wooden structure that we see out on the Sarawak Museum ground is called the Klirieng, widely known as the Tomb Post.

The Klirieng shown in the picture was brought over from Nanga Gaat in the Third

Division to Kuching by boat in 1922. The removal of the Klirieng from the original site near the Kapit fort was made possible by Mr. G.T.M. Mac Bryan the District Officer of Kapit.



*This 'Kiosk' also Known as the Summer House' selling delicious ice kacang and many other types of soft drinks.*



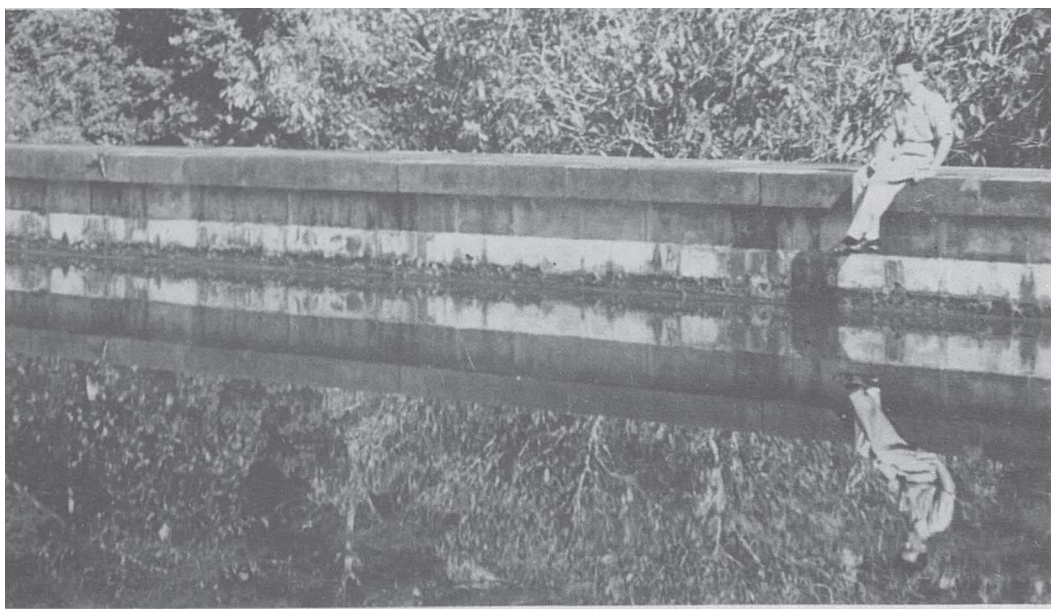




*The old Kuching Reservoir war built over ninety years ago to store and filter water for consumption of the population of Kuching located at Pearse Road, Kuching.*

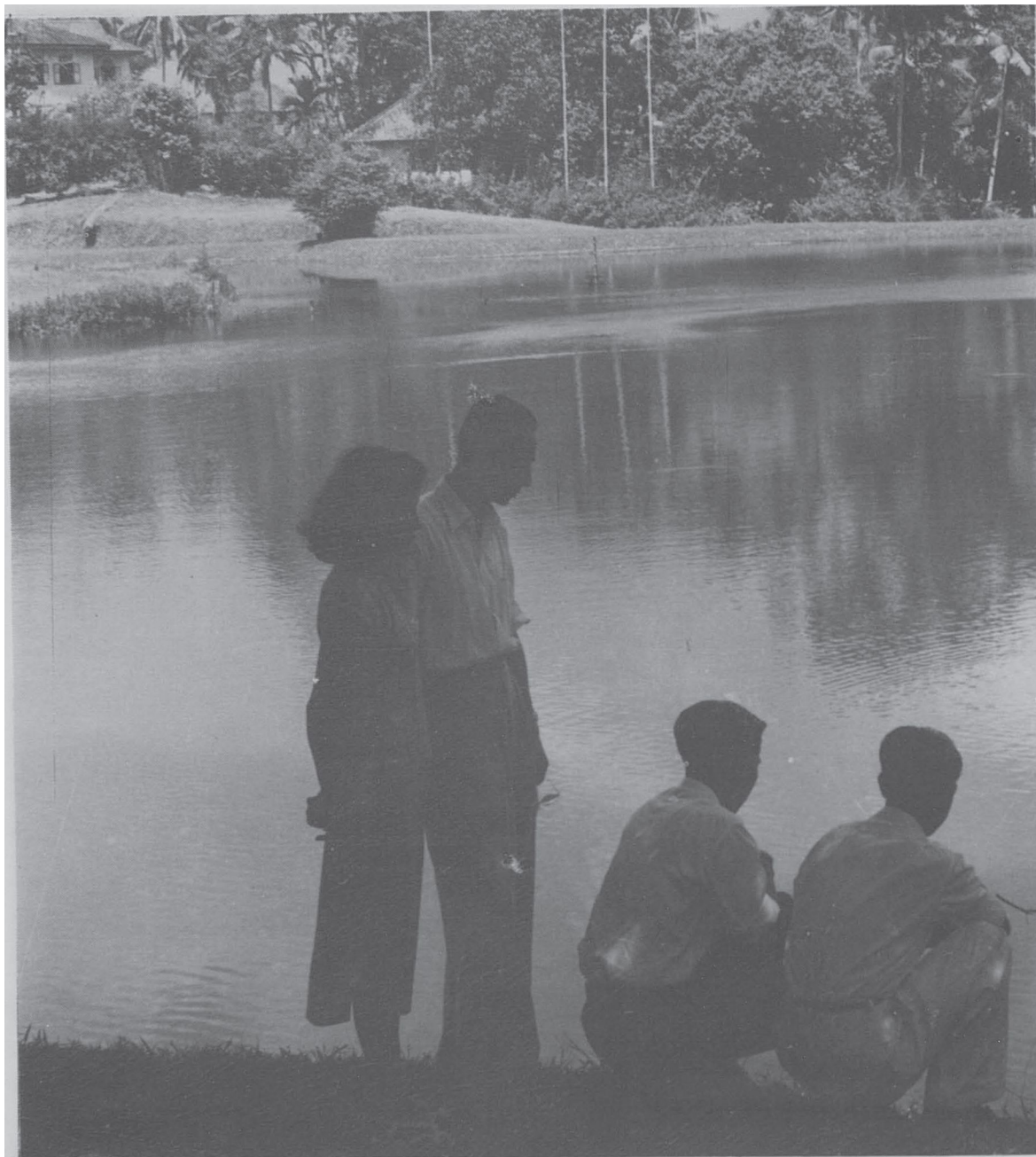


*The water lily pond was so quite and peaceful.*



*Part of the embankment of Kuching Reservoir.*

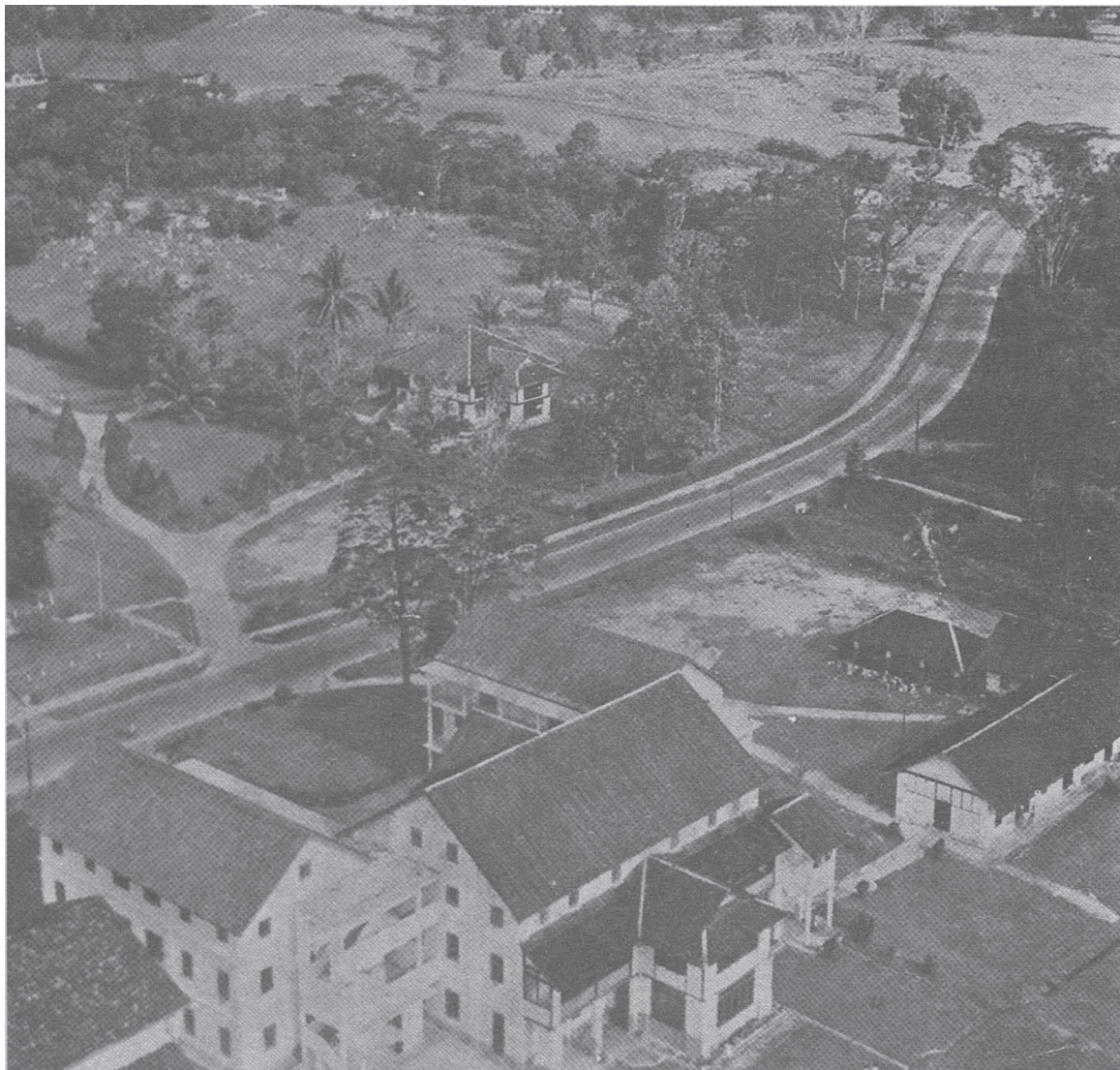




*The brick house as seen in the picture was owned by the late Mr. Tan Sum Guan.*

The problem of water supply was first tackled in 1886 when a site was selected for a reservoir behind the town. Like many of the other major alterations of the time, the work was spread over a number of years, and it was not until 1895 before there was sufficient pressure for water to be piped to the town. During these years, the water consumption had risen enormously and eventually a dam

had to be made on Matang Mountain and waters led from it into the town by pipes which, at one point, had to travel on the bed of the river. By 1912 most of the kampongs across river had a piped water supply, and from this date onwards the health of the town improved greatly and there was never another major outbreak of cholera in Kuching.



*The main block of St. Joseph's, the Roman Catholic Mission's Secondary School in Rock Road, Kuching.*



*A view of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Secondary School.*

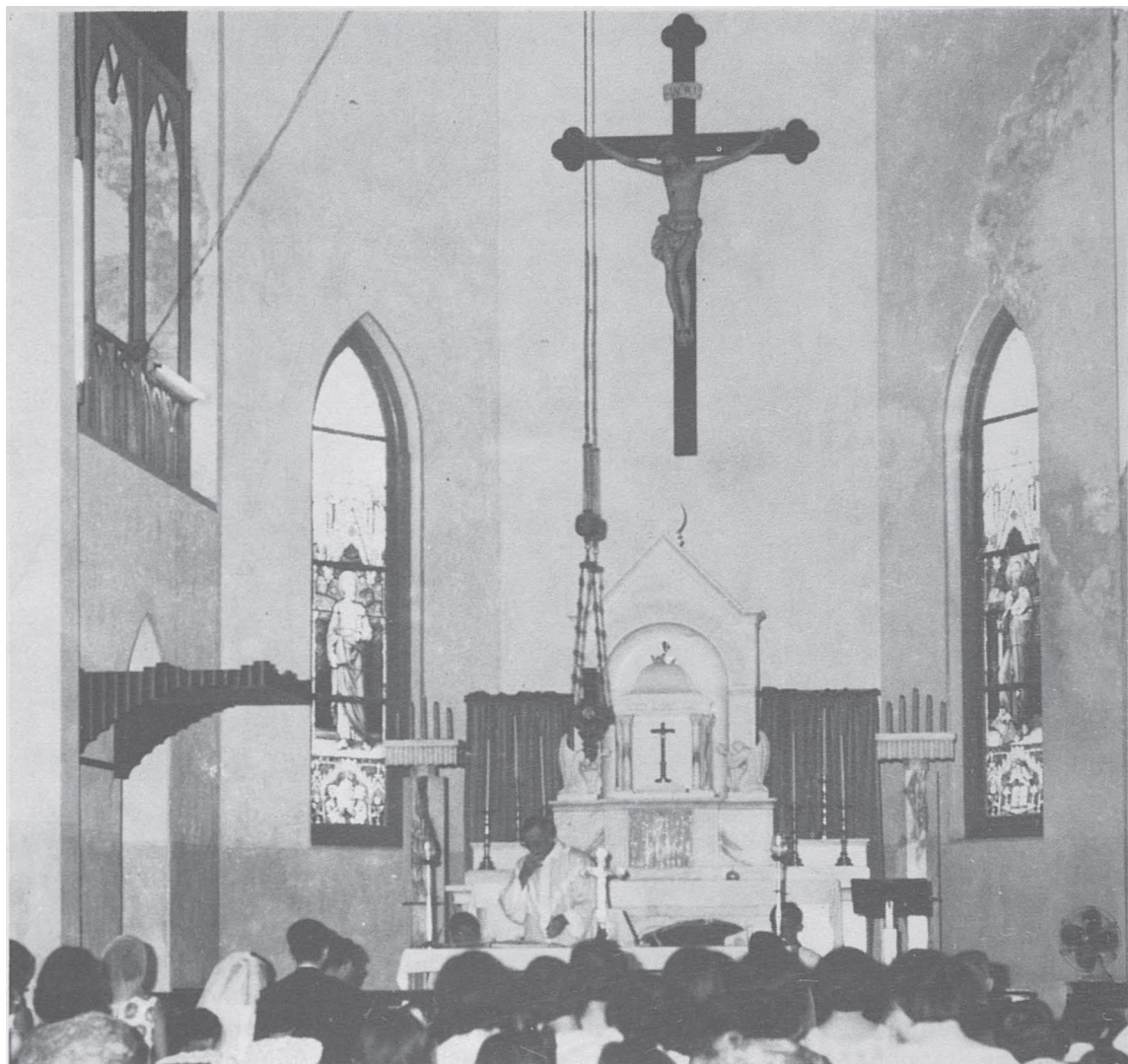




The old St. Joseph's Church was in her own way, majestic and magnificent. Built in the year 1891.

The work of building has been carried out by Chinese labourers under the supervision of the Rev. Father Haideggar, to whom great

credit is due for his skilful management and the considerable amount of technical knowledge which he necessarily showed to keep these erratic workmen from committing the hundred and one blunders, which it was their nature to.



St Joseph Church was, in her own way, majestic and magnificent. Built in the year 1891 on high ground between the convent and the Rock Road is a substantial and somewhat handsome building of brick face with cement and all wood work is of belian timber; the style of architecture is semi-gothic. It is 92 feet long with an alter recess of 8 feet making a total length of 100 feet; the nave is 24 feet and each aisle 10 feet wide, a total inside width of 44 feet. The walls are 20 inches thick and the heights are — side walk 26 feet, at centre of the ceiling 47 feet, and the massive octagonal pillars on each side of the aisle, 33 feet. At the end of each side is a square steeple or belfry 80 feet high. The body of the building is paved with red Chinese tiles but the Sanc-

tuary, with black, yellow and red tiles obtained from Holland. The front, or west end, windows are glazed, the side windows are belian Venetians whilst in the Sanctuary, one each side of the high Altar are handsome stained glass windows representing Saint Peter and Saint Paul which were obtained from Tyrol. A good bell hangs in one of the towers which was presented from a friend.

The cost of the church including altars, paws and c. amounts to \$10,200, which sum was principally obtained by the very Revd. Father Jackson who has been touring in Europe and America with this object for some time past, though a few contributions were received from other sources.





*This was a grand brick house built by the late Ong Tiang Swee, C.S.S., O.B.E., the leader of the Chinese community, Sarawak at Rock Road.*

Mr. Ong Tiang Swee, O.B.E. (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), C.S.S. (Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the Star of Sarawak), was the son of Mr. Ong Ewe Hai and was born in Kuching in 1864.

In 1882, at the age of eighteen, he entered the firm of Ong Ewe Hai and Company. Five years later he became a director of the newly-formed Singapore and Sarawak Steamship Company (now known as the Sarawak Steamship Company Limited) and in 1919 was elected its Chairman.

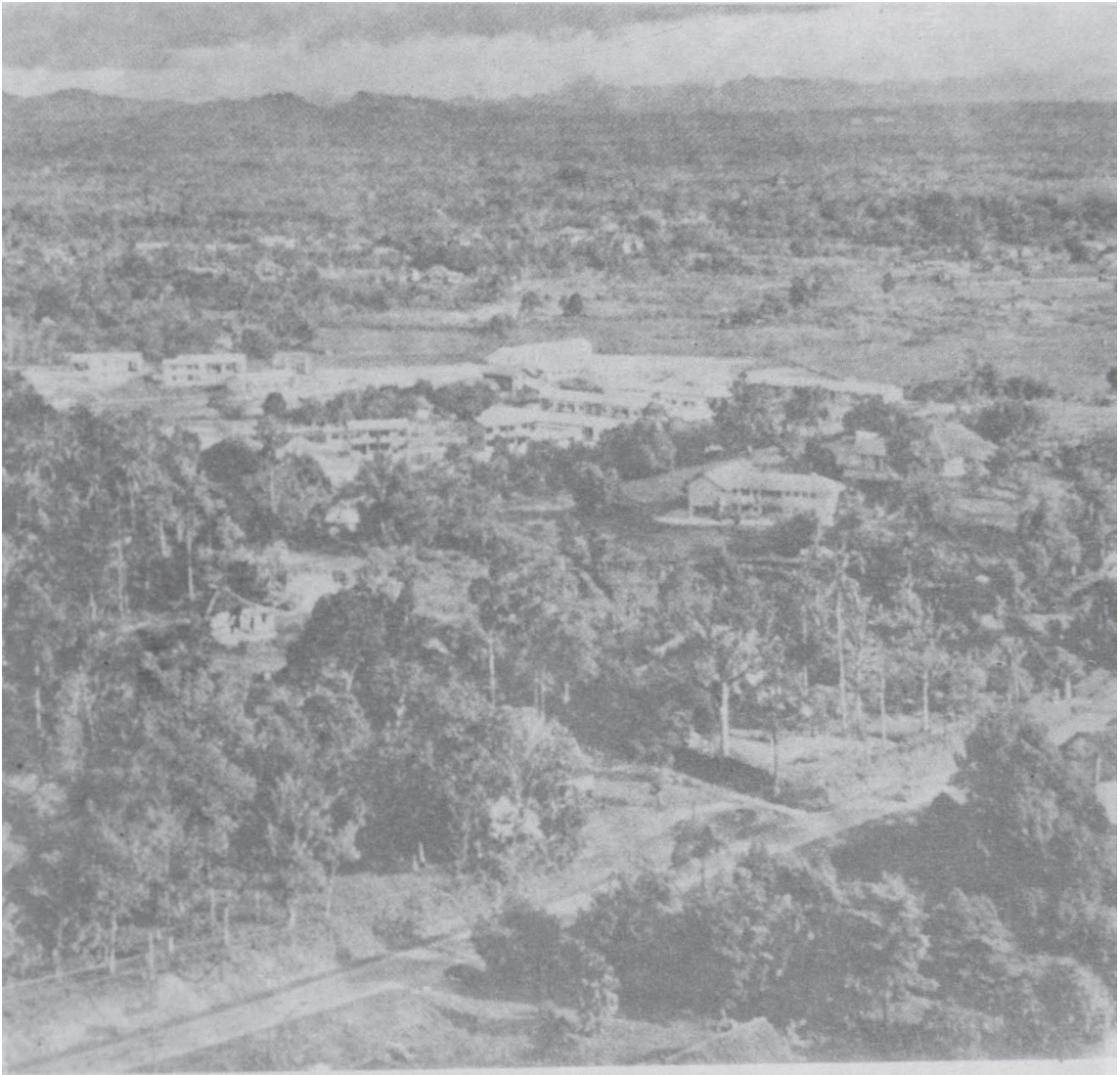
His many years of public service started in 1887 as a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Two years later he followed in his father's footsteps as Kapitan China of Sarawak (Chief Chinese Headman for the whole of Sarawak) when his father died in 1889. In 1912 he became the first President of the Chinese Court and, in 1914, a member of the Food Control Committee during the First World War.

Mr. Ong Tiang Swee's wide experience and wise advice were always at the disposal of government and anyone who wished to approach him.

On the 26th September, 1928, the Rajah's birthday, his services to government and the community were suitably rewarded when he was decorated with the Star of Sarawak, the first person to receive the honour. In 1947 he was also awarded the O.B.E. by the British Government.

From 1923 until Sarawak became a colony in 1946 he was a member of the committee which used to look after the affairs of the country when the Rajah was away in England, and he was also a life member of the Supreme Council (the highest council in Sarawak).

From this, you can see what a great part he played in the progress of Sarawak.

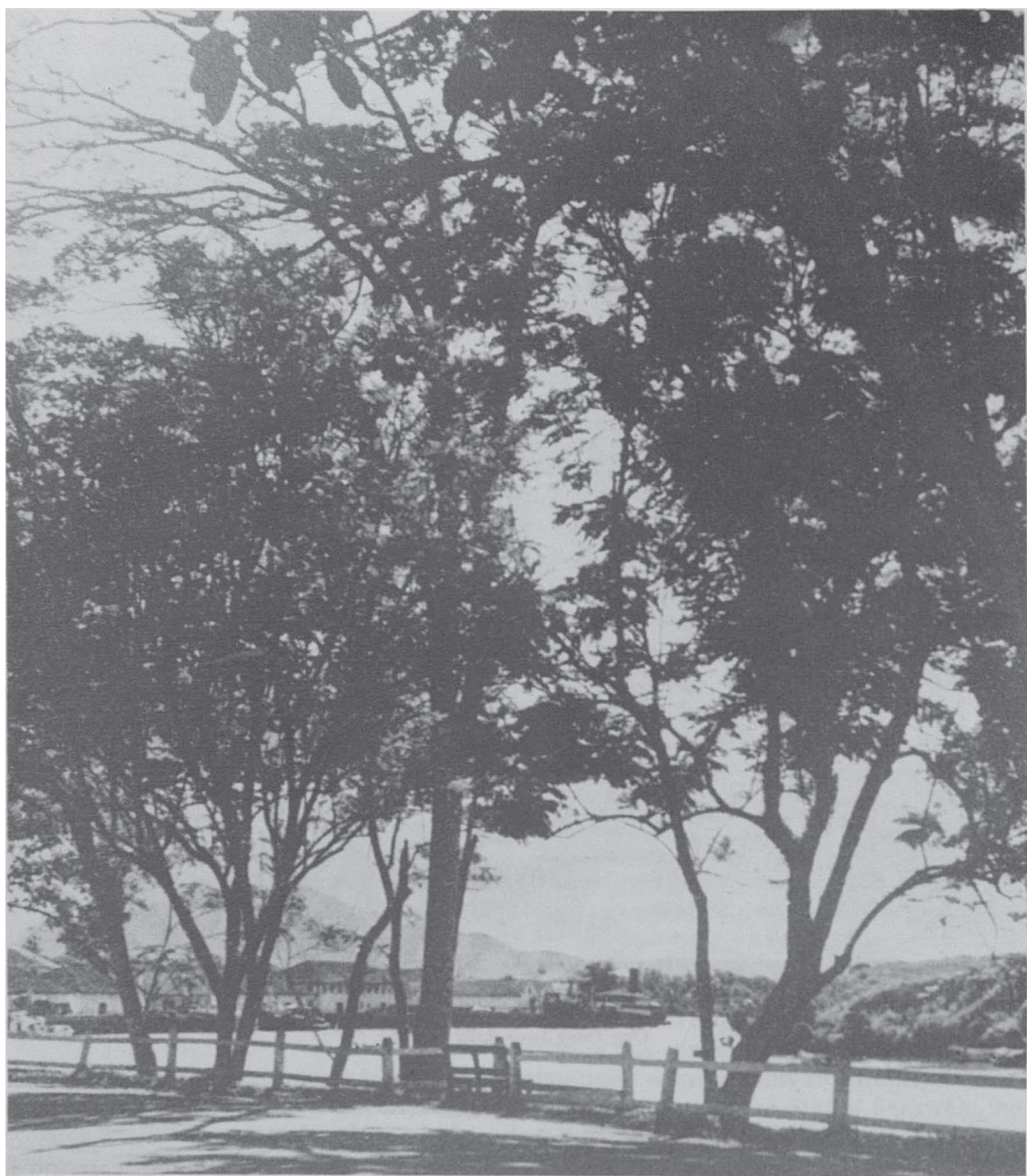


*Ong Tiang Swee Road Kuching.*

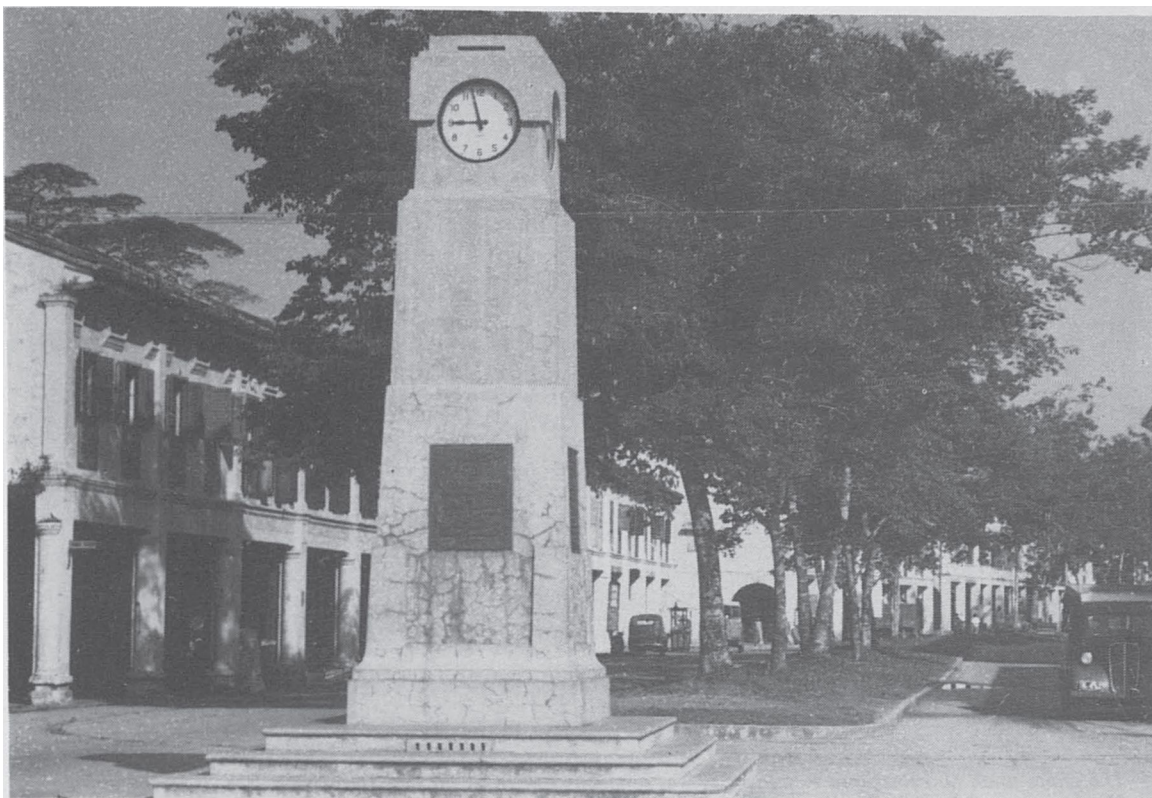
He died on the 19th October, 1950, aged 86, and was buried in the Ong family burial ground close to his house at the second mile, Rock Road, Kuching. His funeral procession was the longest ever seen in the town. At the head walked Mr. T.C. Martine, Manager of

the Borneo Company, Limited, carrying his medals on a silk cushion, and behind the coffin followed people from all walks of life, high-ranking government officials, the rich and the poor, to pay their last respects to this grand old man.

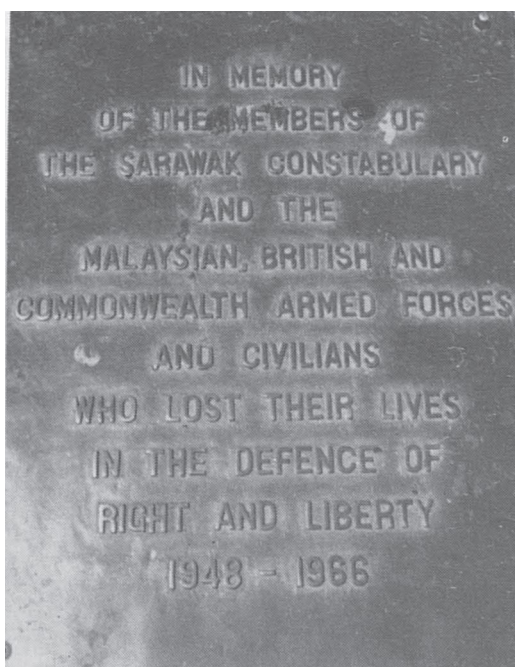




*The Thompson Road as seen in 1950. Through the stalely trees along the Sarawak River Bank, this road is leading to the Padungan area.*



*The War Memorial Block Tower at Padungan Road, Kuching.*



On the 11th November, 1952, the War Memorial Block Tower at Padungan Road in memory of C.D. Le Gross Clark Administration the Government and to all who lost their lives as a result of the enemy occupation of Sarawak was unveiled by His Excellency the

Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell and dedicated by Rights Reverend the Bishop of Borneo. In 1961, a new war memorial of excellent design was erected at Mosque Road Gardens, since then the "Remembrance Day" was conducted at this garden.



The new Council, which held office for a period of 3 years, took over the affairs of the Municipality on 1st December, 1956. The President and Vice-President, who were elected by the Council from amongst its members, held office for one year only, but were eligible for re-election. Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan, C.B.E., was elected the First President of the Council and Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Aduce, M.A., the First Vice-President.

The second Municipal election took place on Sunday, 15th November, 1959. There were 52 candidates competing for the 27 seats. The total number of votes cast was 9,864 as compared with 10,290 in the first election and the percentage of votes cast was 78.3 as against 86.6 in the 1956 election. Out of the 27 old councillors, 15 were returned in the second elections. The second elected Council was inaugurated on 1st December, 1969. The change of Council also saw a change of President of the Council: Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. Ong Kee Hui was elected President replacing Cr. Hon'ble Mr. William Tan who had held the office for the 3 consecutive years since the beginning of the elected Council on 1st December, 1956.

Owing to the constitutional changes, the third local council election in the Municipality of Kuching were held 7 months later than it should have been held, that is, on Sunday 23rd June, 1963. With the amendments to the Local Government Election Ordinance, in 1963, the number of registered voters had increased considerably. As a result of the change of franchise, any person who had been normally resident in Sarawak for 7 out of the preceding 10 years and who had attained the age of 21 years and were on qualifying day, resident within the limits of the Kuching Municipal area were qualified to be registered as voters. This had resulted in the need to conduct house to house registration for the compilation of a new register of voters which was the reason for the delay in this third local council election. For comparison, the number of registered voters in the 1963 election was 16,302 as against 4,798 in 1959 an increase of 11,504.

The third Municipal Election also marked the turning point of history for the Kuching Municipal Council as for the first time the elections were contested on party lines following the growth of political parties in the country. Three political parties filing 58 contestants and 11 independent candidates took part in the election. The Sarawak

United Peoples' Party won 21 out of the 27 seats on the council. The remaining 6 seats were taken by Party Negara Sarawak and the Alliance Party. None of the 11 independent candidates were returned. Out of the 27 newly elected Councillors, 10 were serving Councillors then. Polling was heavy and 80.4% or 36,306 votes were cast. Cr. the Hon'ble Ong Kee Hui was re-elected as President of the Council.

## **Administrative Organisation**

The Kuching Municipal Council is a corporation established under the Kuching Municipal Ordinance responsible for managing the Municipal affairs of Kuching Town which is the State Capital of Sarawak.

Kuching is situated on the south bank of the Sarawak River some 18 miles inland from the sea and the Municipal area extends from the town centre for about 3 miles to the east, west and south with an area of about 7% square miles. The area outside this limit is under the jurisdiction of the Kuching Rural District Council.

The Kuching Municipal Council area is divided into 9 electoral wards and the law provides for the registered voters in each ward to elect, at each local Council general election, 3 representatives to serve in the 27-seat Council. The Councillors from amongst themselves elect a President and a Vice-President annually.

The Council is using the standing committee system in the conduct of Municipal affairs. There are so far 11 standing committees. They are the Town Planning Committee, Public Health Committee, Works Committee, Buildings Committee, Education Committee, General Purposes Committee, Traffic Committee, Tenders Committee, Housing Committee, Finance Committee and Establishment Committee. These committees normally meet once a month to deal with their respective field of functions and make recommendations to the Council for adoption at its monthly meeting.

The executive functions are undertaken by the various departments which are under the Municipal Secretary who is the Chief Executive Officer. These departments are the Municipal Engineering Department, the Health Department, the Public Cleansing and Maintenance Departments, the Valuation and Rating Department, the Municipal Treasury, the Municipal Lending Library, Kuching Fire Brigade, Maternity and Child Health and Primary Education.

# **Kuching Municipal Council Inaugurated In 1953**

## **Early Date: Governor's Deputy Right Of Citizenship Very Great Indeed: Chairman says**

The newly constituted Kuching Municipal Council was inaugurated in a simple but impressive ceremony held last Thursday morning in the new premises of the Kuching Municipality. Dull and wet weather on that morning did not in any way mar the proceedings of the ceremony except that the official group photograph which was to have been taken in the courtyard of the building had to be taken in the Council Chamber instead.

Invited guests and Councillors were in their seats in the Chamber before 10 a.m. on Thursday morning, and shortly after that the Deputy of the Governor, Mr. R.G. Aikman (Chief Secretary) arrived and was received by the Chairman of the Council Mr. W.S.B. Buck who conducted Mr. Aikman to the Chamber.

In his inaugural address to Council, Mr. Aikman said:

"It must be a very long time indeed since a meeting of this nature was held on New Year's Day in Kuching. New Year's Day is, and I think always has been, a public holiday and it is generally occupied by a great many people in recovering from the bewildering pastime of seeing the New Year in or in engaging in some form of festivity, eating, and drinking, or — in prewar days — watching the Sarawak Regatta. It must, therefore, be something very important which causes an assembly such as this to appear in formal fashion on this notable public holiday; and indeed this is a singularly important day in the history of Kuching, because it is the day upon which we witness the rebirth of the Municipality of Kuching.

"I use the word "rebirth" advisedly because for the last 30 years there has been a Kuching Municipal Board, and I should like to pay tribute to those public spirited persons who have served as Municipal Commissioners on and off during that period. They were the pioneers and they have laid the foundations for public service in this town, and it is for you, gentlemen, to follow the lead

which they have given. The Kuching Municipal Board, as previously constituted, could not, however, be regarded as a fully fledged Local Government body because it did not assume responsibility for its own finances and was, in fact, regarded — at any rate until the last few years — as a Government Department. I do not want you to think that now you have been divorced from the Central Government you are going to be treated as outcasts or abandoned out of hand; far from it. You will have at your disposal all the resources in the matter of skill, experience and technical advice which is at the disposal of the Sarawak Government. Such advice will, if required, be freely given. Furthermore, it is the duty of every officer of the Central Government, be he head of department or clerk or technical assistant, to take an interest in Local Government and to assist to the best of his ability of Local Authorities, including this Council. You should have then a strong body of wellwishers and supporters behind you to whom you can turn when the difficulties facing you seem insuperable, and you should be able to receive the best advice available.

"It has been the declared policy of the Government of Sarawak to foster Local Government throughout the territory with the ultimate aim to self-government for the whole of Sarawak. This expansion of Local Government in the town of Kuching is not, of course, the first attempt by the Central Government to set up Local Government bodies, because already such bodies are functioning satisfactorily in Sibu, Limbang and Mukah, where the work which has been done by the Council in those places on an all-community basis gives very real hope for the future. Today's meeting sees the end of many years of planning and it may have seemed to the people of Kuching that those years have been very long, but the planning and organisation which are required to make a success of a venture such as this are considerable, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Kuching Municipal Board, together with their staff,



have had to cope with a good deal of intricate work — much of it in collaboration with the Attorney General — before everything could be ready to launch the new Kuching Municipal Council in a satisfactory manner.

"It is the hope of the Government of Sarawak that an Elections Ordinance for the Municipality of Kuching will be introduced at an early date, and then for the first time we shall have true representation by popular vote. This is an ideal which Government are just as anxious to achieve as are the people of Kuching.

"The whole success of this move to local autonomy depends upon the co-operation and goodwill of the ratepayers and the wisdom of the Councillors who represent them. I am sure that interest in local affairs will develop strongly, and I am equally sure that local leadership will not be lacking. It was with great pleasure that I read recently in the press that lectures of Local Government are to be delivered in some of the schools early next year, and this is a very welcome sign of the growing interest which the public of Kuching are manifesting in the conduct of their own affairs.

"The well-being of the new Municipality must depend principally upon the state of its finances. The Central Government has appreciated this and those of you who have studied the Municipality's budget with care will agree with me that Government have been as generous as has been possible in the matter of financial assistance. You must, however, be prepared to work and pay for the advancement which I confidently expect to see in Kuching in the course of the next few years. I strongly urge the Council not to be content in maintaining the present position, but rather to look forward to steady and increasing progress and improvement of those standards. From the daily working of this large authority tackling the problems of an urban community, we can hope to learn lessons which will be of great value to those responsible for guiding Sarawak's future progress. Your ultimate success in creating a strong and efficient unit of Local Government, collecting the revenues available to you displaying wisdom in the disposal of these revenues, will require hard work, integrity and, above all, goodwill.

"His Excellency the Governor, who is absent from Kuching, has asked me to convey

to the Municipal Councillors and to the Municipality of Kuching the very best wishes for their future success both on behalf of Government and on his own behalf. With that expression I would like to associate my own good wishes for your future".

The Chairman of the Council, Mr. Buck, in his address to the Council following that of the Governor's Deputy, said: "The simple ceremony in which we are engaged today marks the conclusion of the work of many years, and it is with considerable pride and pleasure that I address the inaugural meeting of the newly appointed Kuching Municipal Council.

"This Council is now established as an autonomous body controlling its own affairs within the township of Kuching.

"The Governor's Deputy has already told you that this is but a step in the declared policy of the Government to grant eventual independence to Sarawak. But it is probably the most important step forward in the history of Kuching that has yet been taken. As you have heard, for some 30 years now the township has been administered by a Government Department acting with the advice of a Board of public spirited individuals, who as far as was possible represented every substantial interest of the Community. Today we welcome the new Council as the rightful heir of that advisory Board, in furtherance of the Cardinal Principles of Government as set out in the Constitution Ordinance. There it is laid down "that the goal of self-government shall always be kept in mind, that the people of Sarawak shall be entrusted in due course with the governance of themselves, and that continuous efforts shall be made to hasten the reaching of this goal by educating them in the obligations, the responsibilities and the privileges of citizenship."

"I would emphasise here and now, that the right of citizenship in a country such as Sarawak is a very great privilege indeed, but as the Governor's Deputy has pointed out, it entails obligations and responsibilities.

"As Chairman of this Council it is my duty, as indeed it is the duty and privilege of every Councillor, to do all in my power to improve the general conditions of living, safety and convenience of the people of Kuching and to further the well being of the inhabitants. The Councillors and their officers can only achieve this aim with the closest co-operation of the people whom they seek to serve.

"I firmly believe that the Township of Kuching has achieved its present position as the foremost Municipality in the Colony, not as the result of the natural resources of the place, but as a result of the uses to which the people of Kuching have put those resources. It is the measure of the common industry of the inhabitants, and as the township thrives and grows, so also will the need for increased municipal improvement become apparent.

"The form that such improvement and progress will take will be decided in the future by the weight of public opinion. If municipal policy is to be shaped according to your wishes, then it is necessary that the Council should be told what those wishes are.

"The Council will at all times welcome your criticism and advice and in particular will welcome the formation of civic associations such as Ratepayers Associations, from whom they can draw authoritative and expert advice. It is the policy of the Council to encourage the formation of such associations and service in such bodies would be regarded as public service.

"The Governor's Deputy has urged us not to stand still but to forge ahead, and this will be the constant aim of the Council, but it must be understood that this is not a wealthy Municipality. Indeed we are at present a very poor one, as a glance at our budget will show. Costs of public works are very high — they have never been higher in the history of Sarawak—so while it may appear to individual ratepayers that we are not making the progress which perhaps they would wish, it must be remembered that progress of this nature is always dependant upon the money to pay for it. There are, however, many ways in which the ratepayers themselves can co-operate. For instance, there is much room for improvement in recreational facilities for the youth of Kuching, and I would appeal to organisations and associations to help us see that our young people are able to live better and healthier lives.

"Today is a momentous day in the history of Kuching. For the Councillors here assembled, it is also a day of dedication to the service of the people of Kuching. We know that many difficulties lie ahead of us, but we face the future in a spirit of optimism and faith in the knowledge that we are a free people directing our own lives in the fashion which will bring the benefits to the greatest number.

"On behalf of the Council and its officers I would like to thank you, Sir, for your presence here today, and for the encouragement which your words and good wishes have given us, and for the very kind things you have said about my staff and about myself personally. I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking those members of the public who have shown their interest in our affairs and in the welfare of the township by their attendance here this morning."

The Chairman also read the following messages of congratulations from Municipal Councils, District Councils and Local Authorities in the outstations;—

Message to the Chairman, Kuching Municipal Council, from Sibul:—

"Occasion your inaugural meeting all members, Sibul Urban and Rural District Councils offer their sincere congratulations and best wishes for the future, Chairman."

The Resident, Third Division, in forwarding this message, wishes to associate himself with the good wishes already expressed.

Message to the Chairman' Kuching Municipal Council' from Haji Zahir, Chairman Mukah Mixed Local Authority:—

"On behalf of the Mukah Local Authority I am to convey our heartiest greetings to the Kuching Municipal Council on its inaugurations and wishes for its success. We believe that this Council will show or set valuable example to us, the members of Local Authority, the way to prosperity."

Message from Limbang District Council:—

"On this the momentous occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the Kuching Municipality, we, the President, Vice President and Councillors of all nationalities of the Limbang District Council wish to convey to the members of the first independent municipality in the Colony our most cordial good wishes for your future prosperity and steady progress.

Chua Sim Chui, President, Awang Damit, Vice President."

The new Councillors for 1953 are as follows: (Chairman) Mr. W.S.B. Buck; Messrs. D.L. Leach, M. Sockalingam O.S.S.; Abang Openg bin Abang Spi'ee; H.S. Roe, A.T. Wedgwood; Charles Linang; M. Abdul Hamidj Abang bin Jol; Haji Taha Baki; Marekan Sallehj William C.C. Yuan; Chan Qui Chong; Ong Kee Hui; Lai Chong Kiat; Jee Sui Sen; Hong Geok Ho, Teo Kui Seng; S.K. Law and Wong Kee Hung.



# KUCHING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1954

## GENERAL

On the 26th January, 1954, the then thairnian of the Council, Mr. W.S.B. Buck, was transferred from Kuching to become Resident of the Fourth Division. This transfer ended the eight years association between Mr. Buck and the local government authority in Kuching. On the same day Mr. J.C.B. Fisher, previously Resident of the Fifth Division, was sworn in as Chairman.

Attendance by Councillors at meetings continued at the high level set in 1953 although it was noticeable that many Councillors had voluntary duties other than those of Municipal Councillor.

### (b) EDUCATION

As the detailed report on local education indicates, the assumption of responsibility for education by the Council brought no perceptible change and the Council did little more than act as pay-master for Government. Long and exhaustive discussions were held by the Standing Committee and its co-opted advisers to lay down a clear policy for the advancement of local education and many hours were spent in costing various schemes. Lack of finance, however, left the situation at the end of 1954 much as it had been at the beginning.

### (c) HOUSING

The Housing Scheme for Kuching, detailed in the Woolmer Report, has now received the approval of the Governor-in-Council. The Municipal Council's intention was to provide housing at the lowest possible cost to relieve the congestion in the bazaar areas. The building costs for 534 units are estimated at \$3,440,000 towards which Government has offered a subsidy of \$575,000; the rate of interest on the Government loan for the balance has been fixed at 4% per annum.

The average rent for each of the proposed 532 units will be \$33.78 and it is considered that this rent will be within the means of most who require re-housing. The scheme will serve to alleviate some the worst overcrowding in Kuching but, if re-housing is to be avoided as a major problem, the first scheme

must be followed by others.

Although no population figures are available since the 1947 Census figures, it is probable that the population of Kuching has swelled by a drift from country to town and that the present population is in the neighbourhood of 50,000. The rate of private building is completely inadequate to deal with housing an additional 2,000 people each year apart from dealing with the task of re-housing from over-crowded areas.

The problem is accentuated by the condition of large sections of the bazaar area which are probably getting beyond maintenance and repair. The Engineer's reports indicate that the demolition and re-building of sections of the commercial part of the town is likely to become urgent within the next few years. Although the bazaar is classified as commercial, it contains the highest density of population in Kuching. Building costs are now down approximately to the 1949 level after reaching a peak in 1951/1952, but it is doubtful if this will provide a sufficient incentive for owners of bazaar property to undertake any extensive rebuilding.

However, although the housing position offers no grounds for complacency, the Kuching Municipal Council has a chance to deal with housing problems at an early stage. To quote the Woolmer Report on this point "Kuching has an ideal opportunity to do what few towns have done so far, namely, to deal with slum areas economically and speedily" The project is an ambitious one for a new Municipality with inadequate staff and its inception has only been possible through the unstinted help which the Singapore Improvement Trust and the departments of the Sarawak Government have generously given.

## MUNICIPAL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

### ROADS

During the year there was a deterioration in the general state of many of the municipal roads, to which there were three main

contributing causes.

Heavy rain fell for long periods even during the dry season, and consequently not only was patching and maintenance retarded, but water penetrating to the base course caused the roads a break up more rapidly. To this must be added the large increase in the number of heavy vehicle using the roads. Main road reconstruction, laying underground cables and water mains caused road closures for long periods which means that many of the minor roads were called upon to carry for heavier and more frequent loads than was intended when they were designed. Some of these roads proved incapable of taking this increased load and in order to maintain the flow of traffic, constant maintenance was required, while throughout the remainder of the municipal area there remained more pot holes and shoulder failures than could be controlled.

Since the main traffic arteries have been reopened, much of the damage has been restored but the Council has been left in no doubt that foundations of minor roads, practically without exception, are totally inadequate to carry present day traffic.

Two major road improvements were completed, Rock Road from Satok Road to Badrudin Road was widened to a twenty four feet carriageway with two grass verges, storm drains and on foot-path. In two places the road was lowered to improve vision while a sharp bend was considerably eased.

Crookshank Road, the other main contract, was originally a sharp bend which coincide with a hump in section reducing visibility to a few feet. Here again the road was levelled, the bend eased and a reinforced concrete retaining wall was built.

Under the Colony road development programme, the Public Works Department designed let contracts and supervised two road works within the Municipal area, Green Road and Batu Lintang Road as one project and Sekama Road the other. Although these two jobs are not yet completed, considerable progress has been made. The sum to be spent by the Council and Government on these four road improvements is approximately \$567,100.

An Allis-Chalmers Tractor Shovel was added to the Municipal fleet and this has materially assisted the progress of various works.

## BUILDINGS

There was a slight increase in the number of building applications, the Council considered 403 of which 299 were approved. 63 buildings were completed during the year.

Aluminium roofing has been prohibited in residential areas by resolution of the Council, while its use in industrial areas is subject to consideration of the merits of individual cases.

## HOUSING

Considerable progress has been made towards the construction of the municipal flats and the way is now clear for proceeding with the administration of letting a contract of the piling, to be followed immediately with the main contract for construction.

The proposal is for the construction of 532 housing units by the erection of 6 seven-storey flats, 11 three-storey flats and 5 two-storey flats. An existing house on the site will be converted into six flats.

The design has been carried out by the Singapore Improvement Trust and is almost exactly similar to those erected by themselves with minor modifications to meet local conditions and demands; as a result the Council will derive the benefit of many years of practical experience in the design of the most economical type of housing unit, essential to permit rents to be kept down to a minimum.

## GENERAL

As a result of road widening schemes and corner improvements, a number of trees in the municipal area had to be felled. In partial compensation for this loss and in an endeavour to improve the amenities and appearance of the district, 364 ornamental tree seedlings each protected by wire netting were planted in the Batu Lintang area.

Grass verges in the municipal area continued to be maintained by a combination of mechanical cutters and scythes, the latter taking over the steep slopes and uneven ground where a machine was impracticable. The grass is cut twice each month.

In May two full time dog catchers were employed to destroy unlicensed dogs and as a result the number of dogs licensed increased by 30% in the second half of the year.

The notable lack of civic pride contributed to many of the unsightly features of the town



ship and gave rise to insanitary conditions that could readily have been avoided. There is, however, steady progress towards getting or enforcing co-operation from offenders.

## **OVERCROWDED PREMISES**

Little action was taken to deal with the insanitary and unauthorised cubicles in overcrowded premises owing to the acute housing shortage. Nothing of material benefit can be done to alleviate overcrowding until the Municipal Housing Scheme is completed.

# **FOR 1955**

## **COUNCIL:**

The attendance of Councillors at Committee and Council meetings has shown a regrettable tendency to fall away from the high standards set in the previous two years. Although most Councillors were punctilious in informing Council of prospective absences in advance, this procedure was by no means invariable. A majority of Councillors find themselves representing their fellow citizens on public bodies with a wide variety of functions and probably too much public work is done by too few. Throughout the year the Council continued to have ex-officio representation on the Kuching Schools Safety First Committee, Kuching Safety First Council, Rent Control Board Cathedral Committee, Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak and the Kuching and District Planning Committee; (Chairmanship or Presidency of the Kuching and District Planning Committee and the Kuching Rent Control Board respectively being held ex-officio by the Chairman of the Council).

Among the members of the Council there were four councillors who were also appointed members of the Council Negri. They were Councillors M. Sockalingam, A.T. Wedgwood, Datu Abang Openg and Ong Kee Hui.

Since its inception the Council has had an unofficial majority based upon racial representation; Council is becoming increasingly aware of the need for elected representation. In three years the Council has rapidly extended its function and this expansion has tended to push the vital need for elections into the background. The course of the next two

years should, however, see the achievement of an elected Council.

The work of Council passes through the following committees: Town Planning, Public Health Works, Education, General Purposes & Traffic, and Finance; control of public markets (together with hawkers) and of public housing is the responsibility of the Health Committee and the Finance Committee respectively. In 1957, these responsibilities should be divorced from the present committees and vest in separate committees.

## **INDUSTRY:**

The comparatively rapid development of industry at the 7th mile Penrissen Road has tended to overshadow industrial development within the Kuching Municipal area. Such development as occurred during the year might properly be classified as cottage industry or somewhere between cottage industry and light industry. In the absence of an area suitable for major industrial development, this development is likely to provide the standard pattern until the new port area at Sungei Priok is an actuality instead of a blue print. In recognition of the need for expansion of the industrial zone, the Municipal Council has purchased and is preparing a site at Petanak. In the interests of economy, the extensive filling required is being done by dumping town refuse; the site should be ready for occupation in 1956.

Hie planning of any new industrial zone is probably dependant upon enlarging the Municipal boundaries.

## **HOUSING:**

All contracts for the Council's \$3,500.00 low cost housing scheme have now been let and work on the site has started. Serious difficulties in piling both the housing site and the adjacent firestation site have been met and the completion schedules are behind hand. Re-casting the phases of the scheme should, however, reduce the delay. Building costs have increased since the scheme was drawn up and the housing is likely to cost some 5% more than was estimated.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the present scheme must be regarded as the first of many if housing is to keep pace with the rapidly expanding population.

Private building continues on a modest level. The high rents which even substandard

dwelling command is an inducement to property owners to attempt to convert domestic out-buildings into dwelling units usually of a most unsuitable type. Applications to convert garages and stores into servants' quarters are becoming increasingly common although it is doubtful if the number of domestic servants would show a comparable increase.

The need for building loans made available through building societies or comparable organisations at low rates of interest is becoming urgent.

A fair amount of progress has been made towards improving the traditional shophouse designs, and Crown land alienated for shophouse lots is now alienated with 30 foot frontages which permits much better planning. Jesselton, the capital town of North Borneo, has produced an admirable shophouse design and an amalgamation of that design with local plans may give the answer to an exhaustively investigated problem.

The standard of detached dwelling houses vice shophouses remains regrettably but understandably low. The high level of building costs tends to prohibit private building in permanent materials.

Land values remain high which denies opportunities to the speculative builder; there are in Kuching no housing estates of the type commonly to be met with in Singapore and the Federation of Malaya although there is ample evidence of a willingness to undertake this class of housing venture if conditions were a little more favourable. Why land values should be so inflated within the Municipal boundaries is not clear since considerable areas remain undeveloped or are developed uneconomically; perhaps the lack of an investment market contributes to this and a rating system based on annual values encourages it.

## **PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mechanical street sweeping has decisively improved the appearance of the streets at a substantial reduction in costs; this would not have been possible without first finding a method for replacing worn bristles on sweepers locally. The saving in costs shows no reflection in the financial estimates since it is the Council's policy to transfer redundant labour to other tasks.

By the end of the "dry" season, the Kuching roads were in a fair state of repair

despite the increased weight of traffic. The effects of the 1954/1955 landas season had reduced the roads to such deplorable condition that Council saw fit to appropriate additional funds for road maintenance in anticipation of the actual need. Increased supervision, however, resulted in a sharp improvement and the roads were repaired to and maintained in fair condition within the originally approved estimates. The costs of road maintenance, and the dislocation to traffic arising from repair works, will remain unduly high until the road foundations are improved.

The 1955 plan for improvements to Rock Road included the laying of the first post-war stretch of concrete road in Kuching. The experimental stretches of concrete road laid over 20 years ago in Gambier Road and Padungan indicated the value of this class of road. The 1955 experimental strip was built without reinforcement and at a cost not substantially higher than that of a comparable stretch of standard road. The finish to the road is not good, as might be expected with unskilled labour using a new technique but, so far, the road shows every indication of answering the Council's high expectation.

All contracts for the new firestation and fire brigade flats have been let; it is most unfortunate that serious piling difficulties are delaying the completion of this project which, in turn, is delaying the start of the development plan for the old firestation site in the town centre.

# **FOR 1956**

## **COUNCIL:**

On the 1st December, 1956, the Kuching Municipal Council achieved the status and dignity of a fully elected Council with an elected President and Vice-President.

The history of the post-war development of local government in Kuching is short in relation to the long preceding period when the political aspirations of its multi-racial community were virtually dormant. Up to 1921, the affairs of the township were controlled by the Public Works Department of Central Government: in 1922 a nominated advisory board, the Kuching Sanitary and Municipal Advisory Board, was formed with a composition of five Europeans (three of whom were official members), four Chinese, one Malay and one Indian.



The minutes of the Advisory Board meetings between 1922 and 1928, bound in one volume, survived the Japanese occupation. It is interesting to see that two items recurring on the 1922 agenda were considered by Council again in 1956. The first was a rating problem: "to consider the question of the assessment of Malay householders" and the second "to consider the proposal to include the Cross River Kampongs within the Municipal area". Later reference will be made to these problems.

By 1941, Government was considering the grant of local autonomy to Kuching but the outbreak of war effectively caused postponement of any action. On the resumption of Civil Government, the Board was reformed and the standard local government practice of working through committees adopted late in 1946. The work of the Board (with the exception of refuse and nightsoil collection, fire prevention, control of markets and slaughterhouses and the maintenance of open spaces) was carried out by Government departments mainly Public Works Department, Medical and Health Department and Treasury. The standing committees of the Board at that time were similar in constitution to the 1956 committees of Council except for the addition of Finance and Education Committees. The later additional functions of Council was absorbed by existing committees.

By 1949, the Kuching Municipal Board was proposing that elections should be held to elect eleven of a proposed total of twenty-one Commissioners but local autonomy preceded elections by three years. Following upon the enactment of the Kuching Municipal Ordinance, 1952, the Kuching Municipal Council was established as a body corporate on the 1st January, 1953, with a maximum of 27 members and a minimum of six members. The functions previously exercised by Government departments on behalf of the Board were taken over in rapid succession by the new Council: January 1953, Public Health and Public Works; October 1953, Roads; January 1954, Primary Education and Treasury; March 1954, Low Cost Housing; January 1955, Vehicle and Plant Maintenance; January 1956, Weights and Measures; Revenues of Council also increased rapidly from a total of \$272,591 in 1948 to \$2,270,933 in 1956. During this period (1953-1956) the Council had an unofficial majority based upon racial representation.

The elected Council had only one month of office during 1956 but attendance at Council and Committee meetings was high and representations on matters of interest were pressed with considerable vigour.

## ELECTIONS:

Elections on a territorial basis were held on the 4th November, 1956, for the election of 27 Councillors. The events leading up to the election of the new Council have been fully reported in the Elections Report and comment here is necessarily brief. Concern had been expressed that the electorate would be apathetic and that candidates would be slow to offer themselves for election. Events disproved these fears: in depressing weather, 86% of the electorate votes for the 57 candidates who contested 27 seats. Of the nominated Councillors, five were returned by election to Council which gave an element of continuity between the nominated and elected Councils.

On the 1st December, 1956, the new Council took office.

The voting for the office of President was close, one vote separating the two nominees: the Council unanimously elected a Malay Councillor as Vice-President. With the appointment of Council's Standing Committees, the transition from a nominated to an elected Council was smoothly completed.

# FOR 1957

## COUNCIL:

1957 was the first full year of the fully elected Council with a President and Vice-President chosen by the Councillors from amongst their number. Both the President, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan, and the Vice-President, Cr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, M.A., whose terms of office expired on 30th November, 1957, were re-elected.

The attendance of Councillors, who give their time to civic affairs without pecuniary compensation, was regular both at meetings of Committees and of the Council, and lively debates took place.

The interest of His Excellency the Governor in the progress of Council affairs was much appreciated. He attended the opening of the new Fire Station by the President on 13th April, 1957, and made an in-

formal inspection of the various works in progress with the President in July.

The Right Hon'ble the Earl of Perth, P.C., Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, accompanied by Lady Perth toured the Municipality with the President on 5th September, 1957.

Other visitors who called upon the President and were conducted round the Municipality included Mr. R.E. Hales, Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Limited, Dr. Wong Tsio Yong, Vice-President for Asia of the Junior Chamber of Commerce International.

An interesting link was established with the City of London with the delivery of a letter of good-will from the Right Hon'ble the Lord Mayor of London, handed to the President by Mr. H.T. Pike, a member of the Court of Common Council of the City of London.

In the course of a tour of North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak, the President was accorded official receptions by the Town Boards of Jesselton and Sandakan and the Miri Urban District Council.

A party of six Councillors visited the oil fields at Seria in April as the guests of the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Limited and Councillor John Lee Nyuk Syn represented the Council on a study tour of Local Authorities in the United Kingdom under the auspices of the British Council.

## **ELECTIONS:**

No by-election took place during the year. A full report on the Municipal Elections held on 4th November, 1946, prepared by the former Chairman of the Council, was published.

## **HOUSING:**

Private housing development showed an increase over 1956, seventy houses, nine shophouses and one industrial building being completed during the year.

Plans were also approved for the development of an estate of 163 terrace type, semi-detached and detached houses, together with six shops by Messrs. Dale Marden and Company Limited, in conjunction with the Malaya-Borneo Building Society Limited, at Batu Lintang Road.

A new bazaar layout, consisting of 160 units of shophouses and business premises and including a cinema and swimming pool sites, was approved for development by

Messrs. Wee Kheng Chiang and Company Limited, at Padungan. Site preparation for both these projects was in progress at the end of the year.

In addition seventy-six other applications of subdivision of land were dealt with by the Council.

During the course of the year all the three-storey flats of the Municipal low cost housing project were completed and occupied, tenants for the seventy-eight two-room flats and the seventy-eight three-room flats being selected from the applicants on a points basis. The first block of seven-storey two-room flats was scheduled for occupation in January 1958. Monthly rents have been fixed at \$61.00 for the forty terrace houses, occupied in 1956, \$52.00 for three-room flats, and \$39.00 for two-room flats. These figures include the elements for rates and service charges for communal lighting, lifts, cleaning of staircases and drains, and maintenance of grounds.

There was a slight improvement in the standard of sanitation. No new bucket latrines were permitted, and approval was given to ten applications for the conversion of existing bucket latrines to septic tank system.

## **HOUSING:**

The rate of private housing development continues to be inadequate to meet the expanding population of the Municipal area. Only 56 houses and 14 shophouses were erected during the year and, whilst the number of new housing units exceeds the number of new buildings, the rate of increase is still extremely low.

The standard of new buildings has improved considerably in both design and construction and the standard of sanitation maintains the earlier improvement.

On the 1st November, the first phase of the Municipal low cost housing project was completed and the tenants moved into 40 terraced houses. The remaining phases are progressing satisfactorily after the initial setback with piling difficulties and it is estimated that the last of the 532 units will be completed and ready for occupation by October 1957. The total costs of construction are estimated to be \$3,845,390; the monthly payments for rent and rates, including service charges for communal lighting, lifts, cleaning, scavenging and maintenance of grounds will be approximately \$61, for terraced houses, \$52, for



two-bedroom flats and \$39, for single-bedroom flats.

Despite gross overcrowding in bazaar areas, competition of tenancy is not vigorous although the rents for the new quarters are reasonably competitive. A major cause is probably a reluctance to move away from the immediate neighbourhood of employment.

During the year, discussions were held with representatives of the Malaya-Borneo Building Society with the object of exploring the possibilities of the Society building medium priced houses for sale on mortgage. The primary requisite for this class of development is land for residential development at moderate cost, say, \$5,000 an acre. The current price for residential land within the Municipal area varies widely between \$15,000 and \$30,000 an acre with individual building lots commanding relatively higher prices. Investigations to meet the strong demand for medium priced houses to be available on mortgage continues.

## **BOUNDARIES:**

During 1956, the limits of the Kuching Municipal area were amended to excise the kampong areas which lie across River. Administration of these areas had always been difficult and uneconomical and following upon a petition from the residents, powers were taken to excise all cross-river kampongs from the Municipal area. This action reversed the decision taken in 1922.

## **INDUSTRY:**

During the year, progress was made on site preparation for the Council's light industrial area at Petanak. The site was purchased for the purpose of housing light industry, at present situated in the bazaar areas, on lots of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre. The high incidence in the bazaar area of light industry carrying a high fire risk (carpentry and vehicle repair shops) necessitates plans for the removal of these trades to a safer zone. To reduce the costs of site preparation, town wastes have been used for filling which has reduced the rate of progress to some extent.

## **MUNICIPAL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT**

### **ROADS:**

For some years the increasing density of traffic in Kuching has been the cause of concern to the Council because of the problems associated with maintaining old roads under new roads. These problems still exist and are only satisfactorily solved by reconstruction. Although each year sees some improvement, the length of road reconstructed is limited by the availability of funds.

Another concern arising from the increase in traffic and equally serious, is that of the traffic congestion and available parking space, but all aspects of the traffic problem were studied by Council throughout the year. Road signs were erected, parking areas defined, and non-parking areas declared with the result that, generally speaking, and especially in the Bazaar area, the flow of traffic has been improved.

Some complaints have been voiced that it is not now possible to park a car outside every shop or market stall that it is intended to visit, but the motoring public of Kuching must learn that the number of cars and lorries on the road at present, to say nothing of the thousands of bicycles, makes such regulations as have been made a necessity, and that they must be prepared to leave their vehicle in some prescribed area and walk to the shops or the markets as has to be done in most towns and cities throughout the world.

The maintenance and expansion of such essential services as water mains and telephone cables has caused some inconvenience in certain areas of the town, but it is appreciated by the Council and by the general public that such work is inevitable and that although the road temporarily suffers, benefits are experienced in other directions. In any case, the reinstatement was soon carried out and the roads suffered no permanent damage.

The main road work consisted of the reconstruction of Tabuan Road from its junction with Pig Lane to Sekama Road. The length from Pig Lane to Central Road was straightened and the slope improved, while the length from Central Road to Sekama Road was raised several feet to prevent inundation of the carriage-way as occurred during heavy rain in the past, while the curves were eased and the whole road widened. At the Central

Road junction, a traffic roundabout was constructed which is easily negotiated and which gives a good line of sight at the corners, with the result that the flow of traffic is not restricted, in spite of the fact that both roads carrying a considerable amount of traffic, and at the same time the crossing is rendered safe.

A number of minor road works were also carried out. Part of Reservoir Road was widened and sealed during the year. Unfortunately insufficient funds prevented the whole road from being reconstructed, but work started from the MacDougall Road end and continued as far as the last residence along the road, with the result that all essential users have been catered for. Jawa Street had, for some years, been the only unsealed road in the Bazaar area, but this has now been dealt with, giving advantage not only to shophouse frontages, but also all persons using the Ban Hock Wharf godowns and local landing stages for cross river ferries.

Palm Road was also improved from Pisang Road to the back entrance of the General Hospital, and parts of Padungan Road made up in front of the new shophouses in that area.

The residents on Rubber Road West have been catered for by the construction of an earth road from Green Road and reaching as far as the last house that is charged full assessment. Some stone was provided for a running surface and while this does not pretend to be a highway, it does at least give the residents a reasonable access.

Among other minor works were the provision of traffic roundabouts at the junction of Wayang Street and Temple Street and at Sekama Road/Tabuan Road junction, provision of a drive-in and hard standing for the new Fire Station, roadworks associated with the construction of the Bus Station in Khoo Hun Yeang Street, and the construction of roads at the Council's new Depot extension in Petanak Road.

## **PUBLIC HOUSING AND AMENITIES:**

The Council's Low Cost Housing Scheme showed satisfactory progress during the year. All the terrace houses and 3-storey flats have been occupied since September while the six blocks of 7-storey buildings are nearing completion.

Installation of lifts, sanitary work and electricity supply are well advanced, and the

sewerage disposal plant has maintained steady progress and its completion will coincide with the other buildings and work which constitute the scheme.

A number of children's swings, roundabouts and see-saws have been provided in various open spaces throughout the Municipal area.

## **FOR 1958**

### **COUNCIL:**

"Members of this Council can justly pride themselves on the way in which debates and discussions, whether in full Council or Committees, are conducted with the genuine desire to find the best solutions to the problems before them. There is always more than one possible solution to any matter, but those Councillors who from time to time find themselves in the minority when a vote is taken bow to the majority decision with dignity and good humour. This greatly assists your President in discharging his duties."

This extract from the President's address to the Council on 25th November, 1958, contains the key to the steady progress made during the year.

1958 was the second year of the present Council's three year term of office. The annual elections of the President and Vice-President for the Council year commencing 1st December, 1958, were held on 25th November, 1958. The President, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan was unanimously re-elected for a third term, and Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. Stephen Kuet Tze Yong was elected Vice-President. Cr. Mr. Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, who was Vice-President in 1957 and 1958, declined to stand for re-election.

The attendance of Councillors throughout the year was regular, and there were no long periods of leave taken by the Councillors.

The President's Chain and Badge of Office was worn by the President of the Council for the first time at the opening of the Kampong Lumba Kuda Council School on 28th February, 1958.

The Council at its meeting held on 24th June, 1958, recorded with deep regret the death at Lawas on June 6th, 1958, of Mr. J.C.H. Barcroft, C.M.G., O.S.S., Chief

Secretary of Sarawak.

## ELECTIONS:

Two-by-elections were held during 1958. The first by-election for Satok South Ward was held on 25th May, occasioned by the vacancy created by Mr. Teo Kui Seng who resigned his seat on 6th March as a result of his taking up residence in Sibü. The other by-election for Central Ward was held on 12th October, as a result of a vacancy created by Mr. Shii Dai Seng who resigned on 2nd August, on his proceeding to the United Kingdom to take up a teacher's training course. The votes cast were 50.8% and 52.8% of the total number of voters on the register for these Wards.

Cr. Frank James was the successful candidate out of a total of four persons contesting Satok South Ward. Cr. Ngui Ah Shin was elected at the by-election for Central Ward in which three persons contested the seat.

## HOUSING:

Construction work began during the early part of the year on the private housing estates at Batu Lintang Road and at the junction of Jtock Road and Ong Tiang Swee Road. A proposal to develop a housing estate consisting mainly for terrace houses at the corner of Sekama Road and Tabuan Road was approved in principle by the Council. In addition seventy-one other applications for sub-division of land were dealt with by the Council.

The last 7-storey block of Municipal flats at Ban Hock Road was occupied on 1st August, 1958, thus making the whole housing scheme of 532 units completely tenanted on that date.

The Council continued to pursue its policy not to permit the erection of bucket latrines, and this reflected in the improvement in the standard of sanitation generally. A number of applications were approved during the year for the conversion of existing bucket latrines to the septic tank system.

## INDUSTRY:

There are little progress in the development of the light industrial area behind the Padungan Bazaar. This may be due to trade recession generally and the high prices de-

manded by owners for land.

In spite of the encouragement offered by the Pioneer Industries Ordinance, there was as yet no sign of its effect on industrial development in the Municipality.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company began erecting a new power station at Sungei Priok, Pending, to replace the existing one in the bazaar area at Power Street.

## HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The Municipal Valuer continued to manage the Council's housing estate at Ban Hock Road in addition to his other duties.

As more flats were completed and occupied, an officer from the Council Secretariat was transferred to the Estates Department to assist in the management. His main duty is to see that the premises in the estates are kept clean and tidy and that no unauthorized persons reside on the premises. These are the stipulations laid down in the tenancy agreement. He is also to give general advice and help to the tenants on the principles of good living. A careful check of all occupiers is made by him at least twice a year. This periodical check has the effect of preventing the premises from being sublet and from being overcrowded as a result of unauthorized persons living with the tenant's family in the Council accommodation.

By 1st August, six blocks of 7-storey flats consisting of 336 dwellings which were completed in different stages since January were fully occupied. This has brought to the completion of the whole housing scheme consisting of 532 dwellings made up of 40 terrace houses, 78 units of 3-storey 3-room flats, 78 units of 3-storey 2-room flats and 336 units of 7-storey 2-room flats. A mixed community of 2,441 persons were accommodated in these houses and flats.

When the first two blocks of the 7-storey flats were about to be ready for occupation, there was some anxiety as to whether the 7-storey flats would be fully occupied in view of the poor response to the notice calling for applications for this type of flats; the reason being that the people of Kuching are not accustomed to live on high storied flats.

It was after the first two blocks of the 7-storey flats were completed and occupied that the people began to appreciate this type of accommodation and applications began to



pour in. Ultimately demand exceeded supply with a result that there were forty applicants who were not successful in securing accommodation when the last block of flats were allocated. These unsuccessful applicants were then put on the housing register for future vacancies.

Tenancies are allocated under a points system.

The rents for the three types of housing accommodation are as follows:-

Terrace house	\$61.00
3-room flat	\$52.00
2-room flat	\$39.00

The rents exclude the payment for light and water but include the payment for rates, service charges for communal lighting, lifts, cleaning of staircases and drains and maintenance of grounds.

In order to facilitate the management of the estate affairs and to improve the relationship between the tenants and the management staff through close contacts, the Estate Office was established in the estate and was opened for business on 1st October. The tenants have now only to walk across the road or the estate footpath to the Estate Office to report any matter that requires attention.

A force of ten labourers consisting of mowers and sweepers who are under the supervision of a mandor is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the estate compound including the sweeping of the common staircases and balconies. The indiscriminate throwing of paper and rubbish onto the estate compound is showing a marked decrease in one section of the estate open space where refuse bins were provided as an experiment for use by the residents. More of these bins will be provided in other sections of the estate. Generally a high standard of tidiness is maintained throughout the estate.

## FOR 1959

### COUNCIL:

The town of Kuching has had the rare honour of being visited by His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 26th February, 1959.

The following is a resolution passed by the Council:

"The Kuching Municipal Council formally records its welcome, with pride and gratitude, to the Royal Visitor in the person of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to Kuching, the Capital of Sarawak."

(K.M.C. minute No. 14/59).

His Royal Highness attended a special meeting of the Council Negri on 27th February, 1959, and later went on a tour of the town accompanied by the President of the Council, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan, C.B.E.

Communities of all races in Kuching gave His Royal Highness a warm reception. The town itself and the Malay Communal Reserves were gaily decorated with many splendid arches on the touring route. There were an exhibition of fireworks and an entertainment on the St. Thomas' playing field in the evening of the 26th February. His Royal Highness left Kuching in a Heron aircraft of the Queen's Flight for Sibul on 27th February, 1959.

1959 saw the end of the three-year term of office of the first fully-elected Council on 30th November, 1959. With this came the end of the term of the President of the Council, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. William Tan, C.B.E. who had been President for the three consecutive years. At the inaugural meeting of the new Council which took place on 1st December, 1959, Cr. the Hon'ble Mr. Ong Kee Hui was elected President of the Council and Cr. Stephen Kuet Tze Yong was re-elected Vice-President, for the Council year ending 30th November, 1960.

The attendance of Councillors throughout the year was regular. The only case where long period of absence was granted was to Cr. Dawi bin Abdul Rahman to enable him to take up a professional course of training in Australia.

### ELECTIONS:

The General Elections of the Municipality of Kuching were held on Sunday, 15th November, 1959. This was the second general election conducted by the Council since it became a fully-elected body on 1st December, 1956.

The following comparative figures may be of interest:-

	1959 Elections 15th Nov.	1956 Elections 4th Nov.
Date of election		
Total number of registered voters	4,798	4,557
Total number of candidates	52	58
Percentage of votes cast	78.3	86.66
Total number of votes cast	9,864	10,290
Total number of candidates lost their deposits	1	5

For the purpose of the elections, legal machinery was applied to include the Pending Peninsular in electoral Ward No. 9, prior to the area being formally taken over by the Council as from 1st January, 1960. This action resulted in an increase of some 300 voters in Ward 9.

There were some ninety-two objections received against omission of registration in the Register of Voters. Many of these cases were proved to be genuine omissions, and insertions in the Register were allowed by the Revising Officer.

For the first time since the enactment of the Local Government Elections (Scheduled Councils) Regulations, 1956, an election petition was heard in the High Court at Kuching in connection with the election of three Councillors in Market Ward in which two candidates were tied for third place. A fresh election for the Ward was held on 29th November, 1959.

The general elections of the Municipality of Kuching were conducted as smoothly and as satisfactorily as could be expected. No elections were held in respect of Ward No. 1 (Datu's) since there were only three candidates for the three vacancies. Out of twenty-seven old Councillors, fifteen were returned in the general elections. This, being a majority of Council, would ensure continuity of the Council's standing policies.

## HOUSING:

Good progress was made during the year on the development of private housing estates at Batu Lintang Road, IVi Milestone Rock Road, and Green Road. A proposed to develop a large tract of land adjacent to the New Port Area at Pending Road for bazaar, godown and

residential purposes was approved in principle by the Council. In addition, over fifty other applications for subdivision of land were dealt with by the Council. Consequent upon the development of the New Port Area at Pending Road, it is anticipated that there will be a need for more housing in the immediate vicinity. With this in mind it is hoped that private housing organisations would be interested in the development of housing estates in the Pending area.

The question of whether or not there is justification in embarking on another Municipal housing project is an open one, and in the absence of a detailed survey of the present housing position and its relative problems in the Municipal Area, the Council would undoubtedly approach this subject with reservation. Whatever further housing projects might be considered for the future, the following points, among others, appear to be pertinent:-

- (a) The need for a central site close to places of work of those for whom the scheme is intended.
- (b) For most people with low income, detached dwellings are preferable to flats but the former are also expensive to build, since they require very much greater expanse of land, and would, in all probability be erected on sites far from places of their work.
- (c) The existing Municipal flats are beyond the reach of most of the class of people whom the Council had originally intended to house, e.g. cubicle dwellers in shophouses. There already exists, in fact, a subsidy in the present Municipal Housing Scheme.
- (d) At present the housing position in Kuching is generally considered satisfactory, and the indication is that more private housing projects are being developed in the suburban areas of the township.

It is hoped that some private enterprises would design a very much cheaper type of flats, and on a reasonably central site, so as to cater for the needs of cubicle dwellers in shophouses, thus contributing an important step towards the solution of the overcrowding problem in Kuching.

## INDUSTRY:

In August the Council approved in princi-

pie a proposal to develop Crown Land behind the Padungan Bazaar for light industries. This scheme was to be participated by both the Borneo Development Corporation Limited and Sarawak Development Finance Corporation, and made provision for twenty-nine factory sites. There was an eagerness in the acquisition of these sites by the general public. At IV2 Milestone, Rock Road, there was established a factory manufacturing shirts and singlets under the terms of the Pioneer Industries (Encouragement) Ordinance.

## **BOUNDARIES:**

The Municipal Area was extended as from 1st January, 1960 by the inclusion of the Pending Peninsular, which includes the New Port Area at Tanah Puteh. This was the result of the decision of a joint boundary committee set up in 1959 to study the question of Kuching Municipal Council/Kuching Rural District Council boundary.

By the application of legal machinery, the inhabitants of the area referred to above were enfranchised for the general elections of the Municipality of Kuching held on 15th November, 1959, and the Council was authorised to carry out the preliminaries relating to rating during 1959 in order that rates may be imposed on the inhabitants of the Pending area during 1960.

The Kuching Municipal Council has accepted the agreement in principle of the joint boundary committee that no further revision should be made to the Kuching Municipal Council/Kuching Rural District Council boundary for at least nine years.

## **MUNICIPAL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT**

### **ROADS:**

The year 1959 saw an extensive programme of road reconstruction within the Municipality and, as a result, other authorities such as the Kuching Water Board and Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited were equally active in co-ordinating their programmes of works related to road reconstruction. The scheme to install underground electric cables and remove overhead mains in the

bazaar area undertaken by the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited, had resulted in the disappearance of most of the concrete standards in the town area, and in the resiting of street lights mounted on steel poles on more advantageous positions. Generally an improved street lighting system for the town area had been achieved, which had justified Council's decision in the participation of the scheme with Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited.

The main road work undertaken and completed during the year was the reconstruction by Council of a further stretch of Rock Road, between Maxwell Road and Batu Lintang Road. This operation took approximately three months, and involved the removal of some eighty-nine graves which were located in the road reserve adjacent to a cemetery. Another major road reconstruction which was begun in 1959, but had not yet been completed was the reconstruction by Government of a stretch of Pending Road between Sekama Road junction and Sungei Apong Road junction, in connection with the Port Development Scheme. This stretch of road would further be extended from Sekama Road junction to Central Road junction.

Other road works undertaken by Council included the construction of an 18-foot wide road along a section of the old race track, beginning from Sekama Road junction. This work was paid out of Government grant, and the road was vested in the Council on completion. Thomson Road was widened and re-aligned for better vision of traffic and to ease congestion. This work included the provision of a stretch of footpath on one side of the road. A section of Tabuan Road between junctions of Mathie's Road and McDougall Road was similarly widened to ease traffic congestion. Improvements were also made to access roads in the Malay Communal Reserves, some of these were raised above flood level.

The Council had accepted the responsibility of constructing access roads on Government's behalf for the area behind Padungan Bazaar which was being planned for industrial development. These roads, with a 36-foot carriageway, would be constructed to approved specification and vested in the Council.



The proposal to install automatic traffic lights at the junction of Rock Road/McDougall Road/Mosque Road has been approved by Council. This when installed would be the first of its kind in Kuching and may serve as a forerunner of many to come.

## **CONTRACTS:**

Two major works had been completed during the year, namely: the Poultry Market at Gambier Road and a two-storey block of eight classrooms for the Merpati Jepang Council School. The new Poultry Market is a single-storey building of re-inforced concrete structure with a steel roof truss. This building replaced the temporary poultry market on exactly the same site, and the cost complete with the provision of wire-meshed cages for the birds, amounted to approximately \$41,000. An added feature in the new market is the compartment equipped with the necessary facilities for dressing chickens. The school building was completed at a cost of approximately \$35,000.

## **HOUSING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:**

Since the Council has taken the initial steps of providing housing to the public, other private enterprises, e.g., the Dale Marden's Lintang Park, Wei Tah's Iris Garden and others have developed housing estates for sale to the public. These projects have eased overcrowding, but they are out of the reach of people in the low income group, who live in overcrowded cubicles in shophouses. Overcrowding is, for Kuching, still a health and social problem.

The town of Kuching is fast developing in commerce and industry. It must be emphasised therefore, that proper zoning of areas for industries, planning for roads and drainage, and standard of buildings must be regarded as of paramount importance to the Council, since this is the only way to safeguard the standard of public health and sanitation of a developed area.

## **HOUSING ESTATE DEPARTMENT**

The 532 units of Council flats and terrace houses are fully tenanted, although there

were a small number of persons vacating and occupying some of these premises in the course of the year. All in all 100 percent rental was collected. Applications for housing accommodation are submitted on a standard form obtainable from the Council Estate Department at Ban Hock Road. There were eighty-three applicants on the waiting list as at 31st December, 1959. Investigation reports on these applications show that the need for rehousing is not urgent in practically all cases.

The Municipal housing estate at Ban Hock Road continued to be maintained in a satisfactory manner. The appearance of the estate's Sewerage Plant had been made pleasant consequent upon the planting of ornamental shrubs and flowers around its compound. The Sewerage Plant itself has been well maintained.

The wanton disregard of some tenants to the throwing of brush heads, some time dead crabs, into the manholes of the estate sewerage system had greatly subsided, and only few discoveries were made of solid choking the sewerage system.

The tenant continued to live as harmoniously as could be expected, and there were very few incidents of quarrel or fighting reported. The general standard of tidiness and hygiene in respect of the flats had been maintained to a satisfactory level.

The Council Housing Estate was honoured by the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 27th February, 1959. A plaque was erected at Flat No. 103 to commemorate His Royal Highness's visit to that flat.

## **BUILDINGS:**

There were 455 building applications received during the year compared with 458 in 1958. Of these 429 were approved. Among the approved plans, 133 were new buildings, and the rest were repairs and alterations to existing buildings. The general tendency of the people of Kuching is that they are interested more in re-inforced concrete buildings than timber constructions.

Normal maintenance and general improvements to Council's buildings were undertaken during the year.

## **PUBLIC HOUSING AND AMENITIES:**

General improvements to the Council Housing Estate at Ban Hock Road were made during the year. 235 feet of stone retaining wall for the drain at the 7-storey block along Central Road were constructed. 560 feet of loose stone drain serving the housing estate along Ban Hock Road/Central Road were raised and repaired. 270 feet sub-soil pipes were laid to drain the water-logged open area fronting the terrace houses. 945 feet of concrete footpath, one re-inforced concrete footbridge and two concrete badminton courts were provided for the estate. In addition, some twenty-four bilian benches were provided in the grounds of the housing estate.

Some eight bus shelters were erected in the Municipal Area at points near bus termini and schools. Approval in principle was given by Council to the siting of a public swimming pool at the Jubilee Recreation Ground, Padungan Road.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited had completed erection of their new Power Station at Sungei Priok, Pending Road and the station itself is now in operation.

## **SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL:**

The Kuching Municipal Council gave a Farewell Party to His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Foster Abell, K.C.M.G., at the Jubilee Hall, Padungan Road, on the eve of his departure from Sarawak on retirement. Sir Anthony sailed from Kuching on 14th November, 1959.



*Two of the new blocks of municipal flats, seven-storey high, built by the Kuching Municipal between Ban Hock Road and Central Road, Kuching.*

## HOUSING ESTATE

The Council continued to manage the housing estate developed by it in 1956 at Ban Hock Road on land given free by the State Government and with Government grant and loan assistance for the purpose of providing low cost housing to the public. The housing estate is situated on a site of 14.53 acres and consists of:

- Six 7-storey blocks each of fifty-six 1-bedroom flats;
- One 3-storey block of eighteen 1-bedroom flats;
- Five 3-storey blocks each of twelve 1-bedroom flats;
- Three 3-storey blocks each of eighteen 2-bedroom flats;
- Two 3-storey block each of twelve 2-bedroom flats;
- One 2-storey block of six terrace houses;
- Three 2-storey blocks each of eight terrace houses;
- One 2 storey block of ten terrace houses.

The monthly rental is \$64 for a terrace house, \$55 for a 2-bedroom flat and \$41 for a 1-bedroom flat excluding charges of electricity and water consumed by the tenants.

### Applications

The year 1973 saw a slight decrease in the number of new applications for accommodation in the Council housing estate. Ninety-two applications were registered as compared with 111 applications registered the previous year.

The applications received during the year were duly investigated and placed on the appropriate waiting lists.

In view of the fact that a number of applications had been on the waiting list for a considerable number of years, it was considered necessary to re-asses the number of those who were still in need of housing accommodation. Accordingly, all the appli-



cants on the waiting list were duly informed of such revision in writing. As a result, 104 names were deleted from the waiting list due to withdrawal at own request, no response to Council's written enquiry and having acquired their own houses.

In consequent of the survey, it was agreed to accept that time of waiting should be taken as a factor in considering the allocation of Council's flats. It was recommended that V2 point for each complete year be given to those applicants on the waiting list who have waited for two years and over. Only a few applicants on the waiting list were thus affected and appropriate point was awarded accordingly.

The waiting lists were revised and brought up to date and as at 31st December, 1973 the number of applicants for the various type of accommodation were as follows:

- 103 for 2-room flats and
- 52 for 3-room flats and terrace houses

During the year, cases of appeals from applicants on the waiting list for priority of allocation of housing accommodation increased in number. Most of these appeals were found to be not deserving enough to merit consideration, but there were some where the applicants faced genuine hardship.

**Allocation**

Thirty-three tenants vacated the Council's flats which comprised the following units:

- Terrace house . . . . . 4 units
- 3-storey 3-room . . . . . 2 units
- 3-storey 2-room . . . . . 2 units
- 7-storey 2-room . . . . . 25 units

All vacant flats and terrace houses were allocated to the most deserving applicants on the waiting list.

**Transfer of Tenancy**

During the year the Council allowed a few tenants to change flats either on medical or other meritorious ground. The Council also approved the transfer of tenancies to the respective permitted occupiers due to the deaths of the registered tenants.

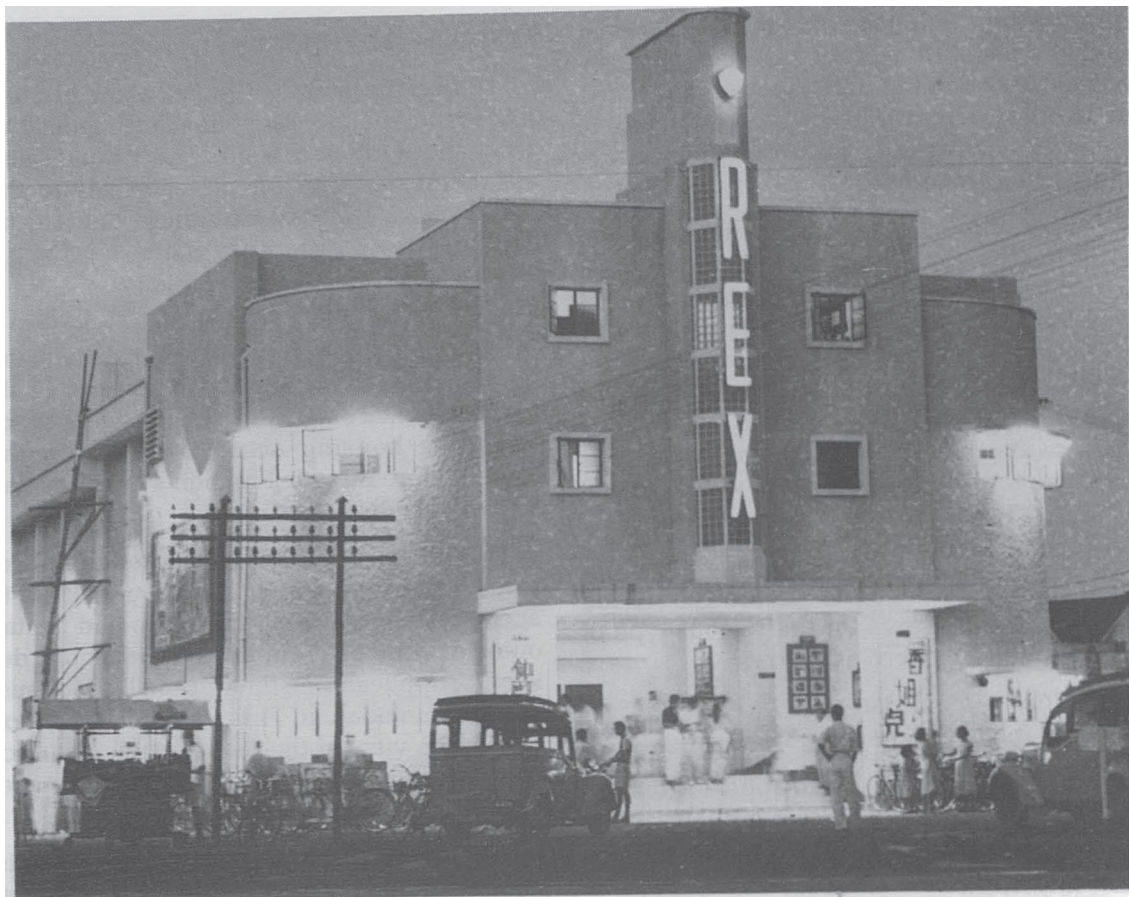
**Firemen's Quarters**

The Council continued to allocate housing accommodation in the Council housing estate to the Council's firemen who, in view of inadequate housing accommodation in the Kuching Fire Brigade Firemen's quarters, had to live outside.

The Council had initially agreed to make available twenty units of the Council flats to accommodate these firemen who had to stay outside, without prejudicing other more deserving applicants on the waiting list for housing accommodation. This was considered expedient in view of the nature of their service which requires their prompt attendance especially at times of emergency.

At the close of the year fourteen units, comprising five terrace houses and nine flats were occupied by the firemen.

The Council has not undertaken any new public housing scheme other than the existing one developed by it in 1956 at Ban Hock Road. This housing estate of 532 flats helped to provide reasonably cheap housing accommodation to those in need, with monthly rent of \$64.00, \$55.00 and \$41.00.



*The changing sky line of Kuching — the new Rex cinema in Temple Street on the course of the former Sungei Kuching, 1952.*

The newly-completed Rex Theatre of Messrs. Shaw Brothers, at Temple Street was brightly illuminated just before dusk to await the official opening ceremony before the premiere performance of 'The Tales Of Hoffmann' on Wednesday night. As the two performances were given in aid of Rotary's Service To Youth, Rotarians, headed by the President of the Kuching Rotary Club, Mr. H. Earnshaw acted as receptionists.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. R.G. Aikman and Mrs. Aikman arrived at the theatre at 6.30 p.m. sharp and were received by the Manager of the Theatre, Mr. Chin Kee Ming, the President and the Directors of the Kuching Rotary Club, after which Mr. Aikman was escorted to the stage where the official opening of the 'screen' was to be performed.

Mr. Aikman, in his address before the performance of the official opening ceremony said that His Excellency the Governor was 'at this moment in Belaga, but before he left Kuching — knowing that he would not be

able to be present — he left with me his message'.

The message reads: "I have watched with interest the erection of this great building and it is a disappointment to me that I cannot be here this evening at its opening. I am sure the public of Kuching will appreciate the comfort and beauty of this modern theatre and I am sure that the management will, in return, supply them with the best that good taste, science and art can provide.

"I congratulate the architects and builders on a fine job, and I wish the proprietors and management every success in the future."

"I think that Messrs. Shaw Brothers have shown, by the construction of this cinema, that they have faith in the future of the town of Kuching," Mr. Aikman continued. In spite of the fact that there are already two other houses of entertainment in the town, they have thought fit to spend a very large amount of money in setting up this new modern picture theatre in this part of Kuching, and as

shrewd businessmen it is obvious that they believe that there is scope for a further house of entertainment in the town and I am sure that they will not be disappointed. New buildings are springing up all over Kuching and I think you will agree that this part of the town has been improved by the erection of this fine building.

"As a Rotarian it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge with gratitude the most generous gesture of Messrs. Shaw Brothers in putting at the disposal of the Rotary Club of Kuching the entire proceeds of the two performances this evening. Messrs. Run and Runme Shaw are both members of the Rotary Club of Singapore and this gesture is what one would have expected from fellow Rotarians. As you will have noted in advertisements and on your tickets, the proceeds of tonight's entertainment are to be devoted to the Rotary Club Service to Youth Fund. Rotary International has decided that during the Rotary year 1952/53 Clubs throughout the world shall dedicate themselves to the service of youth, and it is I think an inspiring thought that some 36,000 Rotarians in over 7,000 Clubs all over the world are making this year a special year of dedication to youth. That means that all over the world something is being done for the youth of particular towns or cities, and in Kuching we also are planning to do what we can for the youth of the community. I have no doubt that the proprietors of the Rex Cinema, conscious as they are of the ideals of Rotary, will also contribute their share towards service to youth by the provision of the best possible entertainment in this cinema which it is in their power to give. Surely we must agree that only the best is good enough for the youth of Sarawak."

Mr. Aikman was then presented with a pair of scissors by a small girl, and with that he cut the ribbon on the curtain and declared the Rex Cinema formally open.

Before the ceremony, the President of the Rotary Club, Mr. Earnshaw, in introducing Mr. Aikman read a telegram message from the proprietors of the cinema, Messrs. Shaw Brothers which was received by the Manager. The message reads: "With Runme en route America extremely regret our absence this evening at the inaugural ceremony of the Rex Theatre being so kindly performed by the Honourable Mr. Aikman to whom we are profoundly grateful. Please convey to all present our hearty appreciation of their support. Rex forms yet another link to the chain of cinemas which for over decades have been serving Malaya and British North Borneo and we earnestly hope that the public of Kuching will enjoy over film programmes at the Rex. It is a privilege to be able to donate the Opening Night's takings to a great cause sponsored by Kuching Rotary Club. Behalf my brother and myself thank you all of whole-hearted co-operation and active participation tonight's events, Runrun Shaw."

On behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Kuching I wish to express to the proprietors and manager our deepest thanks for so generously donating all the proceeds from tonight's shows to our Service to Youth Fund," Mr. Earnshaw said. "We are also most grateful to all the patrons who have so kindly supported this effort by purchasing tickets and attending these performances. Our thanks are also due to Sir Alexander Korda and the London Films Production Ltd. for granting permission for the film which you are to see shortly to be shown without payment of the usual commercial charge."

At the end of the first performance the Management presented a floral basket to Mrs. Aikman and one to Mrs. Earnshaw.



# THE NEW BANK BUILDING



## A Confidence Fully Justified: Branch Very Important Governor Opens O.C.B.C. Building

The development of Kuching as an important business centre is one step forward again with the completion of the Oversea-Chinese Bank building at the junction of Khoo Hun Yeang Street and Power Street, representing an investment of over \$400,000. Planned and sited in accordance with the new Town Planning Scheme the construction of the building is of steel concrete. The floor is of hollow blocks providing lightness, fireproof and good acoustical properties to the various floors.

The entrance Revolving door is a feature rarely seen

in the East and certainly the first in Sarawak. The exterior of the building provides an impressive facade of light cream finish with a panel of metal windows throughout, and the entire front on all floors introduce a new phase in architecture and design. The unique part of the building is the vault constructed 12 feet underground. It is divided into two compartments. The dominant note of the interior is the simple grandeur of spaciousness, comfort and good taste, well balanced lighting and other decorative trimmings. The building Hall is laid with red-black design floor tiles and the

continuous teak counter of a modern design is polished to match the colour of the furniture.

Built by Mr. William Tan the building is striking evidence of local labour and talent playing its part in the development of Kuching.

The Branch of the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited was in Sarawak because the Directors of the O.C.B.C. had great confidence in the future of Sarawak; a confidence which has been fully justified. This was stressed by the Managing Director of the O.C.B.C., Mr. Tan Chin Tuan at the official opening of the Bank building yesterday noon by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell.

Guests, representing government officials, various community leaders and representatives of the local commercial circles attended the ceremony and participated in the reception which followed.

"This Kuching Branch of the Oversea-Chinese Building Corp'n. Ltd., is a postwar child of the Bank," Mr. Tan Chin Tuan said. "It is just five years old — almost to the day — for it was declared opened for business on 2nd January 1948 by the Hon. Mr. R.G. Aikman, your opulent and corpulent Chief Secretary, who because the Directors of the O.C.B.C. had great confidence in the future of Sarawak; a confidence which has been fully justified and which we are now expressing in this more tangible — I am particularly

glad to see, is here with us again.

"This Branch was established or should I say — more 'concrete' form. The bulding is of course primarily to house our own office; but in planning it we also had in mind the need of this town for modern office accommodation. It was designed by Messrs. Kwan and Kwan and built by the well known local contractor, Mr. William Tan. I am sure you will agree that they have done a good job between them.

"May I, in passing refer to a new service we are offering the people of Kuching with our new building? We have planned and constructed a strongroom in the basement in which we have installed renters sales. For a small charge, all the advantages of security and convenience of our Safe Deposit Box Service will be available for the safe-keeping of their valuables. At many of our other Branches this service has proved to be really popular and I am sure the people of this town will likewise find it useful.

"The factors which make for confidence in a country are the same everywhere in the world. They are peace and harmony and a good and stable government; all of which is your good fortune to enjoy. Added to this you have great wealth and resources in the hinterland which are waiting to be tapped. They present wonderful opportunities for development and expansion that will bring greater pros-

perity and happiness to the country. We believe in the future of Sarawak and we regard this Branch as very important, so much so that in addition to myself, two of my fellow directors, namely, the Hon. Dato S. Q. Wong and Mr. Oei Yok Ke have come over specially from Singapore to attend this function. We are here to serve you with all modern banking facilities; and to collaborate with you for the good of all.

"I do not wish to make a long speech; but before I conclude I must take this opportunity to thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, as well as all our other friends for the support and encouragement you have given to us from the very beginning. We shall strive to deserve more of your valued patronage.

"Last but not least, I wish to express the appreciation of my fellow Directors and my own personal thanks to His Excellency, Sir Anthony Abell, for having graciously consented to be present and to officiate at this function. I shall now ask His Excellency to declare this, the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Building open."

## **GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS GOVERNORS ADDRESS**

In his address before declaring the Building open, the Governor said: "I count in an honour and a privilege that I have been asked to declare this fine building open today. The Oversea-Chinese

Banking Corporation, like the British Government, is a post-war innovation in Sarawak, though both concerns were not unknown elsewhere before the war, but both had to prove ourselves, adjust ourselves to the circumstances of this country and absorb its traditions.

"So rapid has your progress been in this matter and such is the confidence that the people of Sarawak have in the soundness and ability of your Corporation that you have already, in the short space of five years, had to move your business to these much larger premises. The Government cannot claim as rapidly expanding a business as that. Indeed our share-holders prefer that we should remain in bungaloid humility. Nevertheless we intend in the near future to build new offices in the neighbourhood of this bank, and I can assure you that they will be magnificent and at least two storeys high.

"However, it is not only your patrons and business associates in Kuching and the people of this town who rejoice to see the great business houses spending their capital in order to provide themselves with buildings which do them credit and help to modernise and beautify our town. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman that I and the Government are equally pleased, indeed I should say flattered that you should give this outward indication of your confidence in the future of Sarawak. I also support your congratulations of the architect and

builder, and like to mention in particular our own William Tan who has done a great deal to modernise and beautify the town of Kuching in the last two years.

"We English people, when we want to describe something as being solid, sound and secure, say that it is as safe as the Bank of England, that is because for a period of over three hundred years the British banking system has stood in the public eye for reliability and security, and I believe that in the stable communities in Asia the banks are gaining the same sort of reputation. Your rapid expansion not only points to your faith in the future development of Sarawak but the confidence that the people of this city have in the boundness and security of facilities you offer. The building is stage in their development. Our roads may be a little rough in places, our electricity not always as bright as we would like it and at times this river from which we derive our name gives out an aroma not unlike over ripe durian, but even our rich and very sophisticated elder sister across the China sea has been known to suffer from similar disabilities from time to time. We are proud of Sarawak and we are proud of progress it has made in the last hundred years in fact a symbol of our stead-fast belief in this country's destiny.

"Prosperity and progress are not the fruit of enlightened Government alone. They require the nourishment of sound and honest commercial practice and the confidence which comes from a secure system of banking. All these are needed before any country can develop its natural resources and the genius of its people to the full.

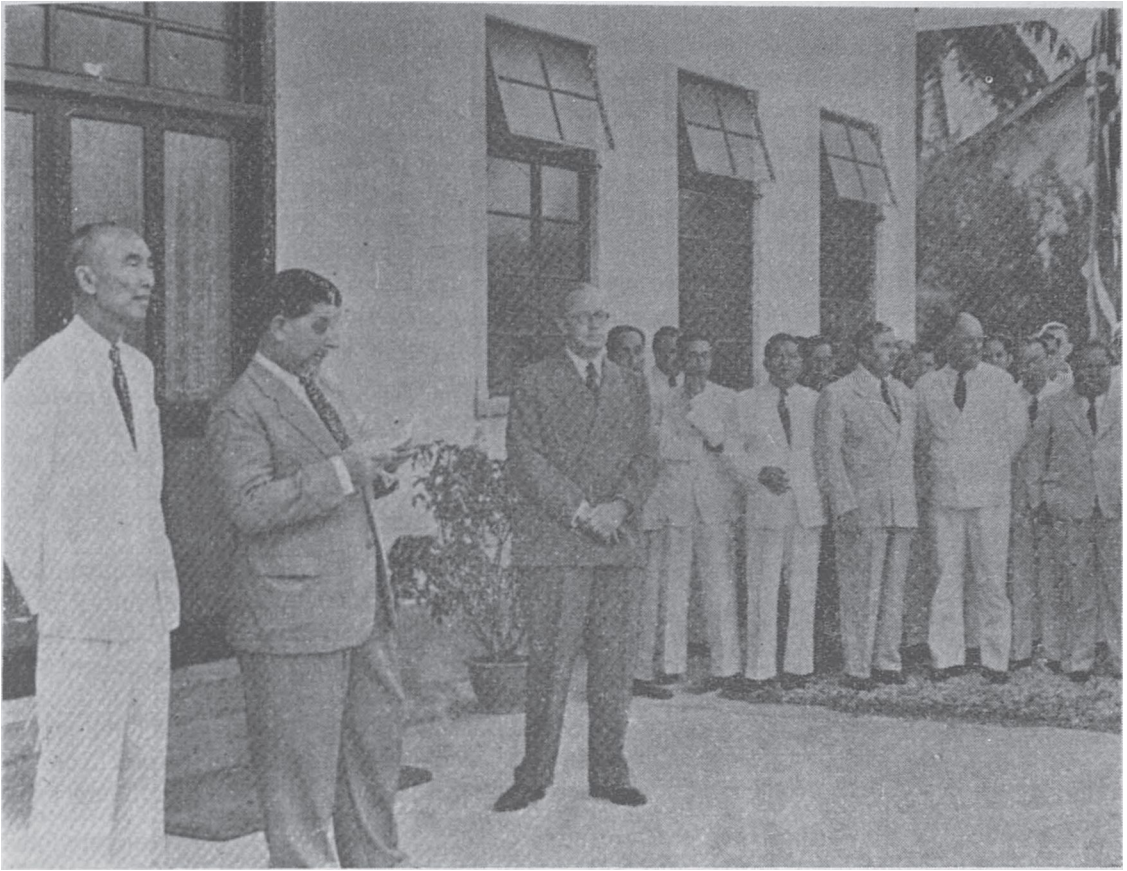
"There is, Mr. Chairman, a very personal reason why I am glad to be taking a part in this ceremony today, I myself come of a banking family. My great grandfather founded a bank in the west of England. My father was the Chief General Manager and later a director of one of the big five banks in London, and my brother has followed in his foot-steps and is a director of the Bank of England. I feel therefore today that I am following in the family tradition in being on the right side of the counter for once and indeed metaphorically out of the red.

"We hear from time to time complaints about the high level of taxation and the small standard of return. This is very natural and it is very good for Government to realise that it is not leading a pack of docile and uncomprehending sheep. We all need criticism to keep us with our feet on the ground and we undoubtedly all make mistakes which should be brought home to us. However today I shall take advantage of my pri-

vileged position to remind you that in this country there is no personal income tax and nor is there any public debt and it is very difficult in the world today to find a country who can say as much, but I believe our amenities compare very favourably with those in other countries at a similar and we like living here and we like to welcome to our shores those who appreciate our way of life.

"Your Corporation, Mr. Chairman have proved over the last five years by the public support it has earned that you are welcomed here and that you subscribe to our way of life. We are therefore proud of your success, and we wish you many generations of peaceful and profitable business and useful service to the people of Sarawak. I have great pleasure Mr. Chairman in declaring this Bank open to business."





*President of Alas Mr. D. C. White, making his address at the official opening of the Wee Kheng Chiang Atas Clinic by H.E. the Governor, Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang is on the left.*

## **A Battle In Every Kampong and Shophouses Governor Calls For A Sence of Citizenship 1953**

A call to the people to fight Tuberculosis in every kampong and shophouse and stress on the vital importance of the individual contributor and the interest of the individual was made by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell when he performed the official opening ceremony of the Wee Kheng Chiang ATAS Clinic at Mosque Road on Tuesday afternoon.

Gaily decorated with Union Jacks the new ATAS building stood bright and clean in the afternoon sunshine which followed the morning's shower, and surrounded by a large group of members and supporters, waited for the Governor to declare it open. His Excellency, accompanied by the Private Secretary, Mr. Urquhart, was received by the President of the Association, Mr. D.C. White

and the Hon. Secretary, Dr. L.J. Clapham, on arrival.

Before calling on His Excellency to declare the building open, Mr. White said:

"A little over two years ago, the previous Director of Medical Services, Dr. Liston, suggested that we should launch an Association in Sarawak to help Government to combat Tuberculosis, and the Anti Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak was born.

"Many of you will remember that the first membership card was auctioned at a dance in the Sarawak Club by Admiral Sir Guy Russell and bought by that supporter of charitable causes Mr. Tan Bak Lim.

"I cannot pay here public tribute to the vast numbers of individuals, firms, Associa-

tions, places of entertainment, and clubs who have so generously contributed to our funds, but their response was not only a tribute to their generosity, but evidence of the fear in which this disease is held and of a determination to do everything possible to stamp it out and make our towns and countryside a safe place for future generations.

"There are, of course, innumerable ways in which such an Association as ours can assist Government; provision of domiciliary relief, convalescent institutions, places where children can be kept safe from infected parents are but a few, but your executive Committee almost from the start envisaged as their first objective the provision of a Clinic for the detection, prevention and cure of the disease.

"Such a building, stands for ever as a symbol of the public's whole-hearted support of the Medical Authorities fight against Tuberculosis.

"And so to day, our first objective stands ready to perform its invaluable functions.

"I hope you will all agree that our architect, engineer and contractor Mr. William Tan has done a wonderful job, a credit to his professional skill, and to his public spirit, for his services have been a gift to the Association.

"Finally, I would like to say that when the Executive Committee decided on a Clinic I approached my friend Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang and at once received the biggest cheque that, at that time, had ever been contributed to a charitable cause by an individual. That cheque enabled us to start with confidence on this Clinic, and though the search for perfection, and rising costs have made our clinic more expensive than we first thought, nevertheless it is very fitting that our first Anti Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak Clinic should be called after Mr. Wee.

"Our future plans will, I hope, embrace similar undertakings in the outstations, but we face the future with confidence, assured of public support.

"I will now ask Mr. Wee to invite His Excellency to open the ATAS Wee Kheng Chiang Clinic."

Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang then handed over

the beribboned key of the building to the Governor. "It gives me great pleasure to hand over to Your Excellency this Clinic on behalf of all those who have contributed to its construction," Mr. Wee said.

"This is the first building to have been designed by the Association for treatment of sufferers from tuberculosis, and I sincerely hope that the public of Sarawak will continue to support this association, so that other clinics can be erected elsewhere.

"The Clinic is to be staffed, equipped, and operated by the Government of Sarawak, and for that reason I have full confidence in its success, and I have no hesitation in entrusting this key to your hands."

"I have been asked to accept this building on behalf of the Government, and it is with great pleasure that I do so but before declaring it open I would like to say something in general and lay terms of the significance of this building on what I believe to be its place in the future development of our fight against tuberculosis," His Excellency said.

"This building has been made possible by the generosity of the people of Sarawak. The Government has provided the equipment and staff and will from now onwards operate the Clinic, but I want this building to keep its identity as the corner stone of a foundation established by individual charity and individual effort. In the history of the world the finest institutions and foundations were established and nourished through the high principles and generosity of men of wealth and vision. Generosity is in the best tradition of Sarawak and of the Chinese people, and I hope that the Society which conceived this project and built this first pioneer building will continue to draw its inspiration and its strength from the public spirit and the self-sacrifice of individual citizens of this country.

"The welfare state is a fine conception, but in some cases it has had the unfortunate effect on the individual of leadening his sense of personal and family responsibility for the sick and needy. In fact in the minds of some people the obligations of citizenship have been transferred to the State. This unfortunate state of affairs has no doubt been brought by a heavy and crippling rate of individual taxation, but we have no such excuse in Sarawak and nor do we seek one.

"I feel sure there is no lack of men and women of good will in this country. ATAS, the Sibuan Benevolent Society, the Red Cross Society, the Sarikei Chinese Women Association who gave no less than \$500 towards the capital cost of this building and other Associations are all doing outstanding work. The Social Welfare Council, as co-ordinating body, are improving and strengthening their organisation. Now is our chance, with this great body of helpers, with science providing us with the weapons, to fight and defeat this scourge. I have not mentioned the Government because I hope it is conceded that we, with the generous and invaluable assistance of WHO, are providing the leadership, and the professional skill.

"But this tuberculosis battle cannot only be fought by BCG, doctors, clinics, etc. Nor is it only a question of a pincers movement operating against the wealthy. It must be fought in every kampong and shophouse, in every street, bazaar and longhouse. It is a battle primarily against dirt, darkness and ignorance, and all of us can play a part. I feel sure a body as the Public Service Corps which is doing such excellent work in Kuching and its environments could give very real and valuable assistance in this matter.

"But this evening I want to stress particularly the vital importance of the individual contributor and the interest of the individual; by giving his time and work and money he not

only serves his country but enriches himself by developing a sense of value, a sense of citizenship by breaking down the barriers of racial prejudice.

"Let us therefore regard this building as but a beginning, a seed planted in the heart of Sarawak and in our capital city. It is named the Wee Kheng Chiang Clinic. Let other names, as illustrious, come forward into the arena to continue the fight throughout the length and breadth of our country. Let this be their challenge. I would like to remind you of that famous and ancient prayer of Sir Francis Drake—

"O Lord God when thou givest to thy servant to endeavour any great matter grant us also same to the end, until it thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory"

When the building was declared open His Excellency and all the members and guests present were conducted on a tour of the building, and a demonstration was displayed of the working of the new X-ray equipment. All work in the Clinic is to be conducted on the ground floor. There are two wings on the first floor which are to be used as the office of the Association and a meeting room respectively. At the back is a flat roof where refreshments were served after the ceremony. This roof is so constructed to enable future expansion of the building.

The new building was brightly illuminated and floodlit during the night.



*Governor Opens New Information Office Building, 1954.*



With a well housed and well equipped Information Service and working in close co-operation with an equally well housed and well equipped broadcasting service, the public can expect a first class service that will be fuller and more varied as the demand requires.

This was said by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, when he opened the new building of the Government Information Service yesterday afternoon in the presence of a large number of invited guests.

Sir Anthony said for long it had been on his conscience that so conspicuous and important a department like the Information Service had been housed so inadequately in that bedlam next to a fish market. If ever a hard working department had deserved an improvement in its circumstances this one had, Sir Anthony added.

"By the nature of things, they are at the back and call of everyone; maid of all work; collecting more kicks than ha'pence but the Department has gone patiently and doggedly on its own unobtrusive way, and has always tried to be helpful and constructive. I know it has done much satisfaction. Only a short while ago this was a small quiet, peaceful corner of Southeast Asia but look at the map today.

"We are in fact bang in the middle of a political maelstrom and we are bound to be affected by the currents on our perimeter. Many of these are basically racial currents and it is not the least bit helpful to our future if we ignore their existence and the fact that they do and will increasingly affect us.

### **Difficult Child to Rear**

"A multi-racial community is a difficult child to rear but if properly brought up it can be strong, healthy and very successful. Look at America and Canada. They found a common loyalty, surpassing all lesser loyalties, in a love of their country, so can we.

"It needs patience and abroad in Europe and Southeast Asia to paint Sarawak in truthful and pleasing colours," he said.

### **Friendly Co-operation**

The Governor expressed the hope that the friendly co-operation between the Informa-

tion Officer, the Director of Broadcasting and the Editors which had been built up over these years would continue for it was very much to everyone's advantage that this should be so. "All are in fact trying to do the same thing, proclaiming the truth, stimulating informed criticism and sustaining justice."

Sir Anthony then defined the role of the press in Sarawak. "They have a difficult and responsible task ahead," he said. "Daily, hourly their influence increases as hungry and impatient literacy grows and demands tolerance and determination it needs inspired leadership from a press who places first the welfare of the country and sets an example of intolerance, which gives guidance and calms fears, supports the rule of law and equal opportunity for all men.

"No one can shirk this racial issue, least of all the press. Racial fears and antagonism must be recognised and remedied if we are to get them out of our system but they can be approached in a way which will not increase racial animosity, in an objective and healing way.

### **Responsibility**

"I do ask of the press both Chinese, Malay and English that they should recognise their increasing responsibility and put first always the welfare of this country. If their readers follow their lead in this the solution to our greatest problem is found. I know the job is not easy, the press want to please; they want to be truthful; they've got to make money; they must be independent; they hope to do the right thing by their share-holders and the community as a whole. It is not easy to do all these things all the time. But I think the press in Sarawak have kept an admirable balance and have served their public well. I have confidence that they will continue to do so in the more difficult and competitive years."

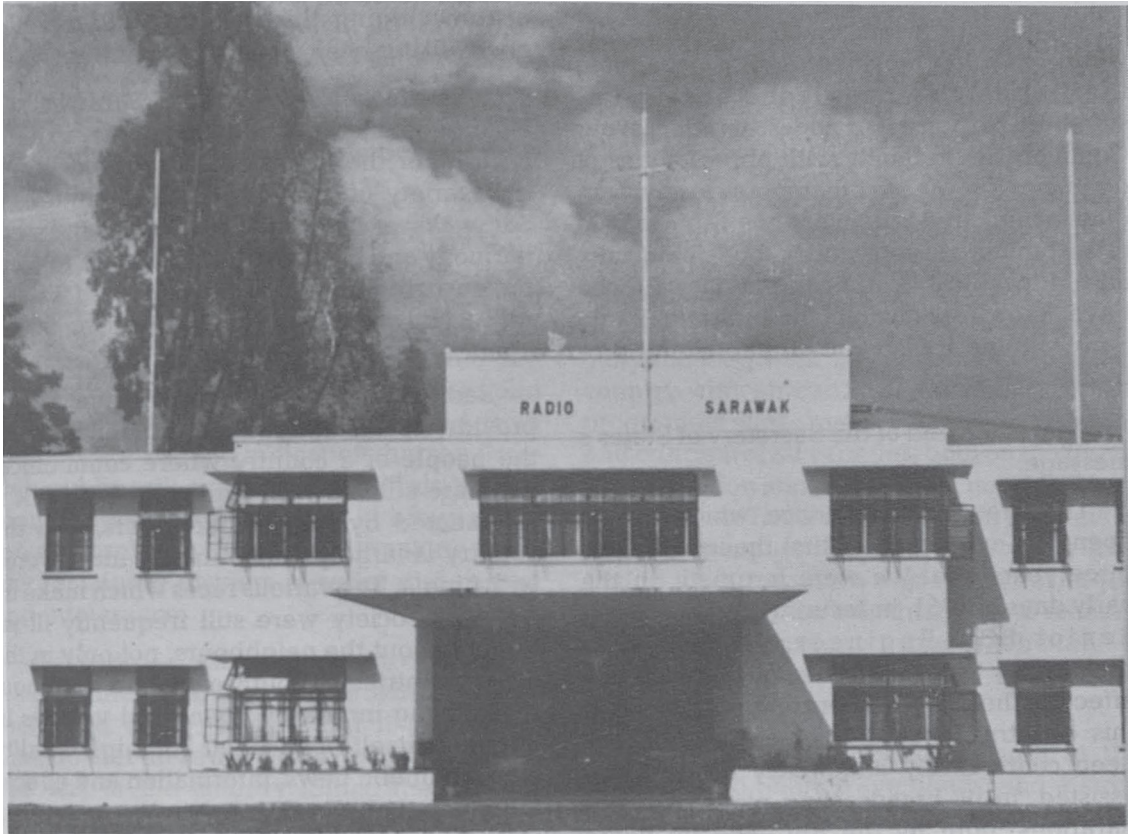
Sir Anthony then congratulated the staff of the Information Office for the excellent job done in difficult conditions, and cited the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh in particular when 22 members of the overseas press had to be nursed round the country.

Sir Anthony then had a special word for the Information Officer, Mr. Philip Jones.

"There is Philip Jones himself who is un-

fortunately leaving us this year," Sir Anthony said. "He will leave many friends behind in Sarawak and his place will be difficult to fill. His unfailing courtesy; his gentle and able leadership; his high sense of duty, will have

left their mark both on the department and its relations with the press and those that came after him could not have a better example of a public servant to follow."



*Broadcasting House, Kuching.*

## **GOVERNOR OPENS RADIO SARAWAK ON 7TH JUNE 1954**

### **Words, of Truth, Tolerance and Friendship**

Radio Sarawak, the official opening of which has been eagerly awaited by the people here, was officially "on the air" last evening when His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell formally declared the service open and made the first broadcast in the presence of a distinguished gathering comprising prominent leaders and members of all communities and government officials.

Guests arrived at Broadcasting House before 6.45 p.m. and gathered at the foyer where they awaited the arrival of the Governor, and after the building was declared open the party proceeded to the

main studio where they listened to His Excellency's broadcast and to the other messages which have been recorded for the occasion.

The following is the text of the Governor's broadcast:

I will begin by reading to you a message I have received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Honourable Oliver Lyttleton. The message reads as follows:-

"This is an important and happy occasion for Sarawak and it gives me great pleasure to

send you this message of congratulations and good wishes. Today for the first time in your long history, you have a broadcasting service which will bring news, entertainment and education regularly to your homes wherever you may be.

Broadcasting has much to give to the world, both in enjoyment and in expanding the frontiers of knowledge and understanding. Not least it provides members of our Commonwealth family with opportunities of getting to know each other more closely. I am glad to think that Britain has been able to help in the building of your station, both financially and in technical skill. I congratulate all who have been responsible for building Radio Sarawak and I wish you all happy and profitable listening."

That is the end of the Secretary of States's message.

This Broadcasting Service, which I am to open this evening, was first thought of over three years ago. We were fortunate, in the early days of 1951, in seeming the advice of a Senior BBC Engineer, who made a preliminary survey of the technical conditions affecting the establishment of broadcasting in this country. Since that time, Sarawak has been continuously and wisely advised and assisted, in its broadcasting plans and preparations, both by the BBC and by Radio Malaya, and I desire to express my deep appreciation to both these organisations for the invaluable help which they have given us.

Three years may seem a long time for the preparation of a broadcasting service such as this, but in a country like Sarawak where the technical resources are still small, I do not think this is out of the way. I believe that we have proceeded with caution and modesty and have not attempted too much too soon. We learn in broadcasting, as in other things, by experience, and by trial, and inevitably by some errors.

The capital cost, as well as the recurrent expenses of this service, had also to be given much thought. The advantages of broadcasting had to be weighed carefully against the many other financial demands upon the Government. The capital cost of the service has exceeded one million dollars and I acknowledge tonight our appreciation of the

generosity of the people of Great Britain, whose exchequer provided Sarawak with over four hundred thousand dollars towards this sum. Broad-casting House has therefore been paid for entirely by the people of Britain and a commemorative plaque acknowledging this gift and this token of goodwill has been placed in the entrance hall,

It is my hope that Radio Sarawak will encourage the peoples of this country to know each other the better and to appreciate the rich variety of their history and culture. In Sarawak, we are proud of our Social and racial harmony and I look to Radio Sarawak to assist by ensuring that our good record in this respect is consolidated and, indeed, improved upon.

Radio Sarawak was established in 1954 to provide a system of mass communication for the people of a country where communications are still slow and difficult. Sarawak is intersected by long broad rivers, and the country is largely mountainous and covered with jungle. The various races which make up Sarawak society were still frequently ill-informed about the neighbours, not only in the other countries of South-east Asia but about those living in nearby towns and villages in Sarawak itself. The need for high quality "entertainment, news, information and education not only in English but in the main local languages as well, had long been felt and in a country like Sarawak. Radio is ideally suited to meet these requirements in a modern State.

Radio Sarawak broadcasts daily in English, Malay, Chinese (Mandarin) and Iban, this last language being that of the largest single racial group in the country, known as the Sea Dayaks.

The policy of the Service is firstly to provide acceptable and suitable entertainment for all language groups of listeners and to bring into their homes the songs and music of their own indigenous culture.

The presentation of news is factual and objective. Bulletins of World News are relayed daily in English, Malay and Chinese from the B.B.C. London. Home News Bulletins aims at these same standards of impartiality which have already gained wide acceptance and command the respect of listeners. The service broadcasts no propaganda. Weekly political commentaries by a



journalist of high repute are broadcast in all languages and much use is made of relays from the Far Eastern service of the B.B.C. and from London Calling Asia. In Sarawak, too, education by radio is a subject which is already receiving growing attention and will clearly become a predominant priority in the immediate future. Plans are being made to expand educational broadcasting considerably and much thought is being given to the commencement of schools broadcasting on a sound basis.

The encouragement provided by an efficient Broadcasting Service has already powerfully contributed towards raising the standards and quality of local artistic talent. Contributors and artists of all varieties are coming forth in ever increasing numbers, and the comment and criticism received from listeners are a sound indication that the Sarawak public will accept no standards but the highest. Radio Sarawak aims at bringing listeners closely together and at breaking down any remaining barriers of racial disharmony and intolerance.

Since Broadcasting commenced in Sarawak in June 1954, the number of listeners has increased tremendously and it is now estimated that there are well over 30,000 receiving sets in the country. Since the average number of listeners per receiver may reasonably be estimated at 8 (and it is frequently more than that) a very large proportion of the population is now kept in touch with local and world developments by radio.

Sales of broadcast receivers are much in favour of dry battery receivers and there must now be few of the remotest kampongs bazaars and longhouses without receivers. Many Iban longhouses have several. The upcountry and upriver peoples have taken rapidly to listening and have found it by local technicians and programme staff has been commendable, particularly in view of the fact that there was hitherto no background experience of Broadcasting in Sarawak. Outside broadcasting is a matter of routine and covers all important sporting events, public occasions and religious services. Discussion programmes or matters of wide public interest have been regularly broadcast and several times have aroused healthy controversy. The Radio Times of Sarawak has reached a fortnightly circulation of around 3,000. It is put out in four

languages and illustrated with photographs of prominent broadcasters and other contributors.

Many interesting and prominent visitors to Sarawak have taken part in broadcasts or given talks. This has done much to provide a personal impression of prominent public figures who hitherto were to many listeners little more than a name. On other pages of this short review of the activities of Radio Sarawak will be found details of the technical and programme facilities and equipment in use as well as information on the type of programmes transmitted in all languages. Radio Sarawak has many thousands of listeners beyond her own frontiers and receives a large daily mailbag from listeners both inside the country and abroad. The engineering and programme staff greatly appreciate comment and criticism of all varieties, both on the quality of reception and upon fills an important gap in their lives. The response of Iban listeners to their programmes has been particularly gratifying. They constantly demand more time on the air and they are constructive and realistic in their criticism of programmes. The impact of home broadcasting has been far more extensive than was predicted.

Radio Sarawak broadcasts both in the Medium and Short Wave bands, and a large expansion in the Service has been planned for 1957. New studios are being built and additional modern technical facilities provided. In 1957, an additional Short Wave transmission will be introduced with increased strength. The efficiency and enthusiasm displayed programme content. Such listener reaction is naturally of extreme value and all communications are promptly acknowledged with gratitude. The preoccupation on the Service is to ensure a steady and continual improvement in its standards of presentation and output. Throughout its career Radio Sarawak has sought technical and professional advice and guidance not only from the British Broadcasting Corporation but from all neighbouring Broadcasting Services with whom close and cordial relations have been established. It is, however, most necessary of all to receive from our regular daily listeners their reaction to the services they are receiving and criticism, however harsh welcome.



B R I N G T H A T O L D T R A D I T I O N I N T O T H E S E N E W

W A L L S : G O V E R N O R 1 6 / 1 0 / 1 9 5 4

A call to all members of the Secretariat Staff to bring the old tradition of the Rajah Brookes from the old building into the new premises was made by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell when he spoke at the official opening of the new million-dollar Secretariat last Saturday morning.

Members of the Supreme Council and representatives of major institutions were among the heads of Departments and staff of the Secretariat who were present at the opening which took place in brilliant sunshine.

The Governor, was received on arrival by the Acting Chief Secretary Mr. J.H. Ellis and was then introduced to representatives of the architects Messrs. Swan and McLaren and the builders Messrs. Sino Malaya Construction, and shook hands with the Director of Public Works, Mr. C.F. Birt.

Mr. Ellis then presented His Excellency with the key to the main door on the building and Sir Anthony, before declaring the building open said he would like first of all to congratulate the architects and the builders for the work which they had done, and hoped that both firms had found conditions here congenial and profitable and would remain here

for many years to use their skill in other projects.

"I don't suppose history will accord me any credit for opening this new Secretariat," Sir Anthony went on. "It is an unfortunate fact that all Government offices are targets of abuse, but I would like to say this you have worked for me four years and have done all my work for me. I am satisfied and would like to thank you all very sincerely. You have worked long and hard hours and for many years in crowded conditions. It is but a short step here from your old home across the street, and I would like to ask of you to bring the tradition of those old walls which have served as the centre of government for eighty years into this new building — the Brooke tradition. This is the tradition of helpfulness, friendliness and sincerity in dealing with the people."

The Governor continued to say that he hoped that before long there would be the people from the long houses in the rural areas, walking along the corridors of the new building and ignoring the labels on the doors would open them and look inside "to see what is going on in this the centre of government".

Illustrating the meaning of this tradition

Sir Anthony recalled a story told him by the former Attorney General of Sarawak Mr. Gratton-Bellew who when he first arrived here went to pay his respects to the Chief Secretary and saw outside the Chief Secretary's Office an old man in fattered clothes. When Mr. Aikman (the Chief Secretary) came out he said to Mr. Gratton-Bellew: Would you mind coining back later? This old man has been here a long time and I would like to see him first.'

"That is what I mean by tradition," the Governor said, "and I want you to bring this tradition here from the old home which I can assure you is in good hands (it is now handed over to justice)."

His Excellency, after opening the main door, entered the building, followed by the large gathering, from the heat of the glaring sun outside to the fresh and cool air-conditioned interior.

A main staircase faces the opening, leading to the first Floor. Towards the right on the ground floor is a partition where enquiries can be made. This is an important place to the public for it is here that information regarding the numerous offices in the building can be obtained.

No names or labels, but numbers instead, are attached to doors leading to various sections of the Secretariat. At the end of the right wing of the ground floor is a spacious conference room which will serve an important purpose while on the first floor in the centre and facing the stairways is the Supreme Council Chamber, panelled entirely with local wood.

On the completion of a tour of the premises, the large gathering adjourned to the conference room where refreshments were served. The new building attracted large crowds in the evening when it was floodlit.

## Changing Landmark



Another landmark which links Kuching of the present era with that of the past will soon pass into history and later into oblivion when the old three-storey "classical type" building that stands prominently on the hillock at the junction of Padungan and Thompson Roads and facing the river front is dismantled to make way for a modern sky line of lock up shops, a Restaurant and a Theatre hall.

Dismanting work has already, in fact begun for some time. The bard earth which made up the hillock on which the building stands has been the scene of busy activity in the past weeks as men started levelling the ground and it will only be a matter of days before dismantling work on the old building itself is begun.



A typical Chinese architectural masterpiece this building (see picture) is probably the only one left for such a long time. Built 60 years ago it was the property of the late Mr. Tan Boon Seng a wealthy sago factory proprietor and has since changed hands several times. It was purchased by

Mr. William Tan a few years ago.

This house was the largest and best Chinese home yet built and at that time it cost only \$14,000. Chinese carpenters, masons and some good material were imported from China specially for the construction

of this building.

The embossed flowers made of various pieces of porcelain were skillfully executed by craftsmen and the carvings on wood are a wealth of oriental splendour which modern workmen shink to think of undertaking such delicate art.



Mr. William Tan, well-known local builder and architect whose work in connection with many major and fine buildings in Sarawak stand as evidence of his creative skill, has added another score in his list of successes in the creation of this new building of which he is the sole proprietor.

The idea of combining a theatre hall with an arcade for commercial purposes is not a new one in capitals of the world but in Kuching it presents a new feature which is both attractive and practical, and there is confidence that the public will in time to come appreciate its

usefulness. The Arcade contains 10 shop blocks (two large and eight small lots) which are to be used for trading purposes. Of uniform design these shops have large show windows which afford window display to the greatest advantage. It is understood that all these premises are now occupied.

The Odean cinema itself is designed with the aim of providing facilities both for stage and screen performances. The stage is constructed to meet the ever changing phases of cinema entertainment and includes provisions for cinemascope and such like. For stage

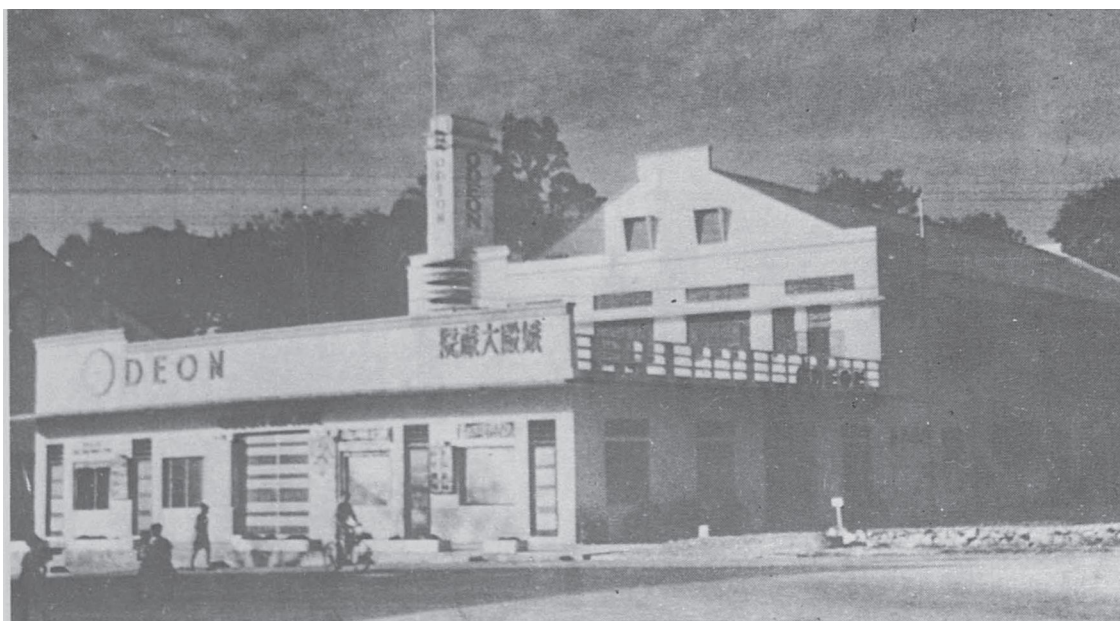
shows a large orchestral pit is also provided. Projectors and sound effects are supplied by Messrs. Westrex Co (Asia) Ltd. formerly Western Electric Co of Asia. Catering for four classes of seats with a wide balcony on the top floor the hall has accomdation for 1,200.

Over the main facade of the building which is enlightened throughout projects a dominating tower which overlooks a flat roof that can either be used as a beer garden at present or provide the foundation for upward expansion in the future. A spacious car park constructed on the side of the building will provide convenience to patrons.

The overall cost of the new building is understood to be in the region of \$400,000.

# Odeon Formally Opened In 1955

## Two Institutions Benefit



Two institutions — ATAS and the Boys Scouts Association are expected to benefit substantially from the proceeds which were derived from the premiere performance of the film "Remains to be seen" which are screened on Thursday night at the odeon Theatre on its formal opening.

Boy Scouts flanked the corridor of the odeon Arcade just before 6.15 p.m. on Thursday to form a Guard of Honour for the arrival of Mrs. A.R. Snelus, wife of the Acting Deputy Chief Secretary, who had been invited to perform the official opening of the new Theatre.

Mrs. Snelus was received on her arrival by the Proprietor of the Theatre, Mr. William Tan, the Lord Bishop of Borneo (representing the Boy Scouts Association) and Mr. Tan Kui Choon (Chairman of the ATAS Council).

The party then proceeded to the stage which was decorated with floral baskets presented by well wishers for the success of the new Theatre.

In inviting Mrs. Snelus to perform the opening, Mr. William Tan first expressed his thanks to all present for so readily giving support to two very worthy causes.

"The building of a Cinema Hall is not a new thing here," he said, "though it is to be admitted that not one is built every year — but in planning this project — the Odeon Theatre and Arcade, the result of which you see this evening, it is hoped that it will not only provide good entertainment to the public but also to serve some of their immediate needs at the same time.

"Many fine new buildings and ambitious

projects materialising here in the course of the past few years are concrete evidence of the progress we are making in this country, and I hope that this new building here will be in its modest way add to the faith and confidence which we all have in the future prosperity of Sarawak".

Mr. Tan Kui Choon, Chairman of ATAS Council then said:

On behalf of ATAS I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. William Tan very sincerely for his generous gesture by offering us half of tonight's proceeds on this gala opening of the odeon Theatre.

The ATAS Council contemplates building a Sanatorium in the future and you can be rest assured that the money forthcoming from tonight's collection would be very useful indeed.



The object of ATAS is to combat Tuberculosis in the Colony of Sarawak by all available means which include the provision of relief to dependants of sufferers from the dreadful disease. We need funds to foster this object and I therefore appeal to the members of the general public for their help and generosity.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kind support this evening and I am sure that you would like to join with me in wishing Mr William Tan every success in his new enterprise.

The Lord Bishop of Borneo, the Rt. Rev. Nigel Cornwall said he was happy to be representing the Boy Scouts Association of Sarawak. "We want to thank Mr. William Tan for his generosity in giving half the proceeds of this evening's entertainment to the Association towards the erection of the Head-

quarter's building Fund.

"Scouting is a magnificent way of inspiring and guiding the youth of the country along right and good channels. It develops resourcefulness and unselfishness, and demands high standards of truthfulness, honesty and good living.

"We are all concerned to try to give to youth the best we can, and that best Discipline plays a very large part. Scouting has a law, and a law implies discipline. Scouting inculcates discipline without the regimentation of army training; it maintains strict discipline through the positive and constructive means of loyalty to one's brother scout, giving every boy a chance of exercising good fellowship and service within the framework of discipline and freedom and making his own contribution to the welfare of the whole body.

"The erection of a headquarters building, and the

consequent better organisation of the Scout movement in Sarawak are urgent needs, and I commend this cause very sincerely to the generous support of the public. Mr. William Tan is himself a member of the Scout Council; and in his generous help he is showing himself to be a true Scout. This generosity is characteristic of the man, and on behalf of the Association I thank him — and all of you present tonight — most warmly".

Mast. Ngui Lim Lee then handed over to Mrs. Snelus the pair of scissors with which she cut open the tape holding the screen and in declaring the theatre open she took the opportunity of wishing it every success. After the opening Mrs Snelus was presented with a bouquet of white carnations and Arachnis Alba by Miss Catherine Tan, the daughter of Mr. William Tan.

There were packed audiences at the two houses.





*The external view of the Lanka Building.*

The ground floor of the building will be occupied by the People's Clinic which will move in from its old premises in the course of the next week or so.

One new feature of the building which makes history here is the automatic self operated lift. Its contri-

bution 10 convenience will be immense.

The name of the building — "Lanka" — is also not of the ordinary Lanka was the original name of the island of Ceylon when it was under the Ceylonese kings before its capture by the Portuguese.

## Lanka Building Opened

The new four-storey Lanka building at Khoo Hun Yeang Street, which has just been completed and to be officially opened today, completes the architectural symmetry of a design initiated with the construction a year or two ago of the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation building. It adds yet another mark to the progress of construction work in

Kuching.

Owned by Dr. M. Sockalingam, prominent member of Sarawak's Council Negri and Kuching Municipal Council, the building costs \$500,000.

Designed by Singapore Architect Ng Keng Siang, F.R.I.B.A. F.R.I.B.D., and constructed by Sino-Malayan Engineers, the

building has a pontoon type of raft for foundation which is quite new to Sarawak. It has a flat roof which is very suitable for open air function.

The first, second and third floors of the building are designed to accommodate offices of various sizes, most of which have already been taken up and occupied..

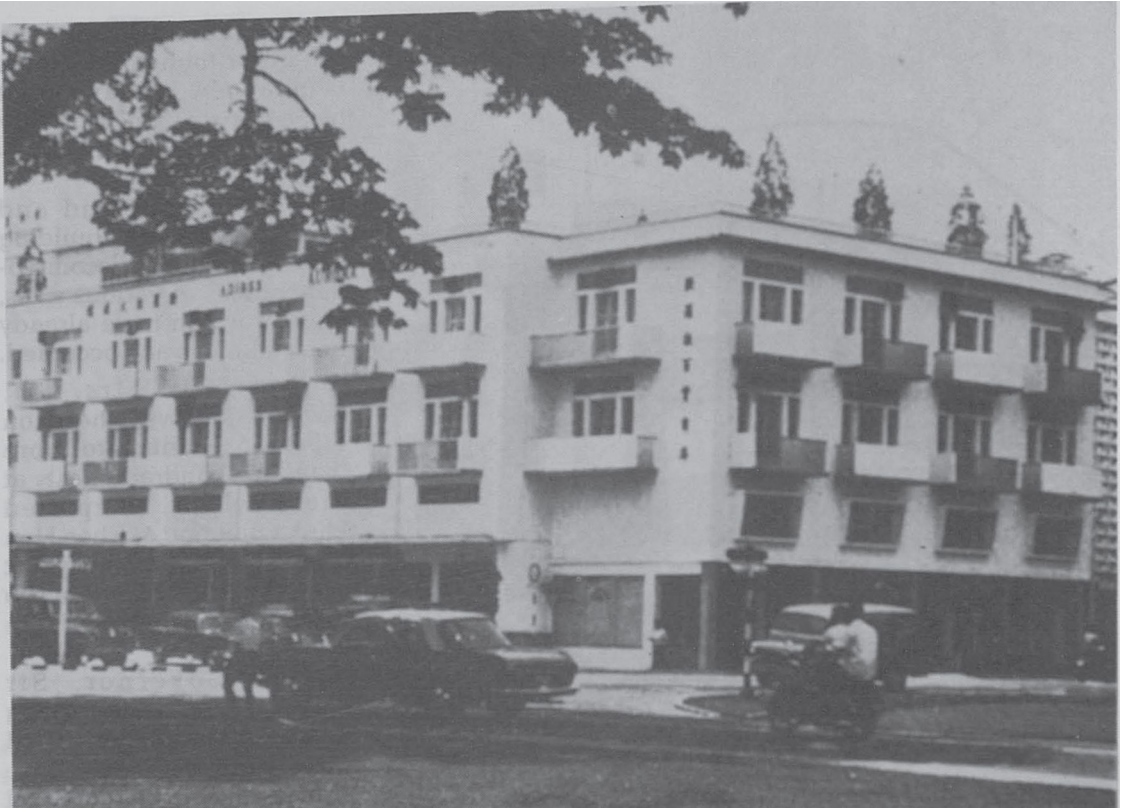
Dr. and Mrs. M. Sockalingam were hosts on 1/8/1955 evening to more than four hundred guests at the newly — completed Lanka Building at Khoo Han Yeang Street during a buffet reception which they gave to mark the opening of the building.

The Governor, Sir Anthony Abell was among the guests who included Government officials, leaders of communities and representatives of social and commercial circles.

The hosts received their guests at the main entrance to the ground floor where the People's Clinic will eventually move in, and after a brief tour of the clinic the guests were taken to the third floor of the building in the automatic self-operated lift, (the first of its kind in Kuching), where the reception was held.

Wiser guests took advantage of the roof garden to enjoy the cool evening breeze and a delightful view of Kuching town as it looks at night. Conversation and drinks flowed incessantly and the last of the guests did not leave till a late hour.

Flowers as usual added the extra touch of colour to the atmosphere. Floral arrangements in the reception room were by The D'Lights, and pot plants at the roof garden were very kindly lent for the occasion by the Sarawak Boys Home.



*The Aurora Hotel, built on the old site of the Union Club, was opened in 1955.*

## Official Opening Of Tan Hoan Kie Building

### FINEST HOTEL IN COLONY

Undoubtedly the most luxurious and magnificent building that is being added to the landmark of this township, the Capital of Sarawak, now stands aloft at the corner of McDougall Road and Rock Road — where formerly stood the old wooden building lastly occupied by the Sarawak Union Club.

The fine and massive building — the Tan Hoan Kie Building or rather the Aurora Hotel — is being put up by the Sole Proprietor and Governing Director of the Aurora Hotel, Mr. Tan Hoan Kie, and many local populace and visitors from abroad will want to congratulate him for 'his far sightedness in putting up something which is really required in Kuching', as one visitor recently complimented.

The building will be officially opened by Mrs. E.H. Williams, wife of the Chief Justice, at 5 p.m. today, and at which many distinguished personalities will be present.

Following the Opening Ceremony a Cock-

tail Party will be held in the building to celebrate the occasion and it will continue till 9 p.m.

Built at the cost of 1% million dollars, the building has 36 bedrooms — Single and Double Suite — with private bathrooms attached. The bedrooms are comfortably and artistically furnished with modern conveniences. Some of the bedrooms are equipped with effective air-conditioning systems. With its quiet and pleasant surroundings, and luxurious furnishings best service is assured in the Aurora Hotel.

There are also many other new amenities such as Dining Room and Dance Hoor, air-conditioned Chinese Restaurant, luxurious air conditioned Bar, Rose Room and Bar, Roof Garden, Barber Salon, Beauty Parlour, Dry Cleaning shop and a Sundry shop stocked with modern and fashionable goods.

The three-storeyed building is designed in contemporary architecture by Messrs. Nelson & Garton Liverpool, and the attractive interior

decorations and colour schemes add to its pleasantness. The interior decorations were responsible by Mr. Chan Sit Poi of Comfort Furniture Co., Singapore.

Contractors for the building were Messrs. Sino-Malayan Engineers (Borneo) Ltd.

The building is also equipped with a lift, cold rooms, and modern sanitation installed by Messrs. Watts & Baker Ltd.

Mr. Tan Kim Kan of Indonesia was the building manager during the course of the construction of the building. He was assisted by a local man, Mr. Tan Hock Seng.

About forty specialists have been engaged specially from Hong Kong. The Chinese and European restaurants are manned by world famed chefs from Hong Kong, thus providing well-known and delicious dishes of all kinds. Many refreshments will be served at noon time in the air-conditioned Chinese Restaurant. Besides providing the most palatable menu, the European restaurant will serve tea, fancy cakes, etc. in the afternoon.

A full list of wires and liqueurs which cannot be obtainable elsewhere are available at the air-conditioned Bar.

The Manager is Mr. Yang Tse Pung formerly of the Park Hotel, Shanghai, and also the Manager of the Cathay Restaurant Ltd, Capital Ballroom and Restaurant, Singapore. The Supervisor is Mr. E. Smith.

Also housed behind the fine building are the quarters for the workers.

With the opening of the building Kuching can now boast of having the finest and up-to-date hotel in the whole of Sarawak. **Thanks** to the enterprise of Mr. Tan Hoan Kie, may it prosper and give many happy moments to those who will dine and spend an enjoyable time there.

Mr. Tan Hoan Kie, who is also the Governing Director of over twenty firms in South East Asia, is here to be present at the Grand Opening Ceremony. He is accompanied by his wife and a daughter.

## **HUGE CROWD AT AURORA'S OPENING NOW WE CAN WELCOME OUR FRIENDS**

The million dollar Aurora Hotel, finest hotel in the Colony of Sarawak, was officially declared opened by Mrs. E.H. Williams, wife of the Chief Justice, in November, 1955.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by a huge number of guests. It was also graced by the presence of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell.

The guests comprising high officials and business circles were well entertained at the Cocktail Party which followed after the Opening Ceremony to mark the historic occasion.

The building, built at a of \$1 million, was gaily decorated and illuminated and all eyes were turned on it during the very fine weather throughout the evening.

In her opening address Mrs. Williams said that it gave her great pleasure to be present on this grand occasion which was truly historical for the people of Sarawak.

She further added that during the last few

years the people here had watched with interest this fine building grow slowly but surely until, at last, it had been completed.

At times, she continued, the people became impatient, wondering whether the day, would ever come when they would be able to enter its doors and enjoy all the luxuries of an up-to-date hotel.

Mrs. Williams added: "I think you will agree that the delay has been worthwhile, for today we see in the Aurora Hotel an imposing structure, gay in colour and modern in design, luxuriously equipped and with a staff of experts. Its proprietor, Mr. Tan Hoan Kie, may well be proud of it.

"I am sure that this hotel which offers so many amenities will play an important part in the commercial and social life in Kuching, indeed of Sarawak. We can now welcome to our shores friends and visitors in full confidence that they will find in the Aurora Hotel a place where they may reside in comfort and where all their needs will be met. It will be



unnecessary for them to hurry away after a brief visit. The longer they stay the better we shall like it.

"Mr. Tan Hoan Kie, who is a well-known citizen of Singapore, has now shown his confidence in the people and Government of Sarawak, and in the future of the country, by expending a large sum of money on the erection of this hotel.

"I would like to offer him my congratulations on his foresight and enterprise.

"I am delighted to have been asked to perform the opening ceremony and I extend my sincere good wishes to Mr. Tan Hoan Kie and all connected with the running of the hotel, and for the complete success of Mr. Tan's great venture.

"I am sure everyone here will join with me in wishing prosperity and good fortune to the hotel", Mrs. William concluded.

After making her opening address Mrs. Williams was pre-sented with a pair of scissors carried on a tray by Miss Tan Poy Cheng, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tan Hoan Kie. After cutting the tape she declared the building opened, and following this she was presented

with a bouquet of flowers by Miss Ida Tan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tan Hock Seng.

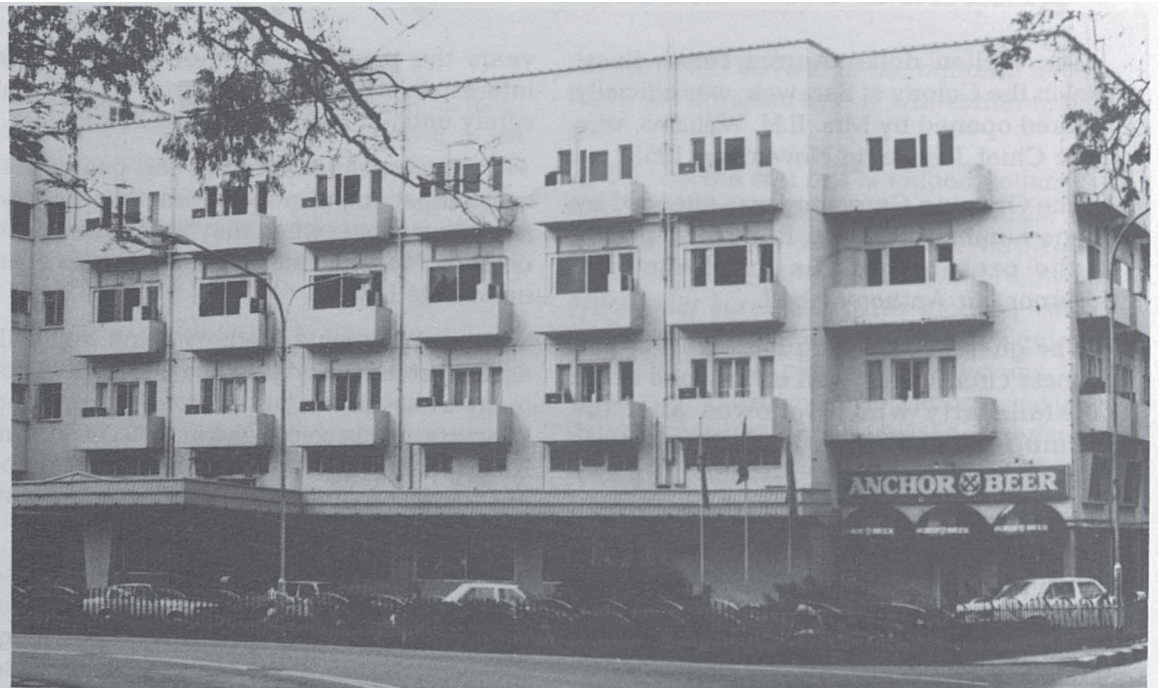
Mr. Tan Hoan Kie in his reply in Chinese thanked Mrs. Williams for officiating at the opening ceremony. He said he was greatly honoured by the presence of His Excellency the Governor, high officials and dealers from the business circles.

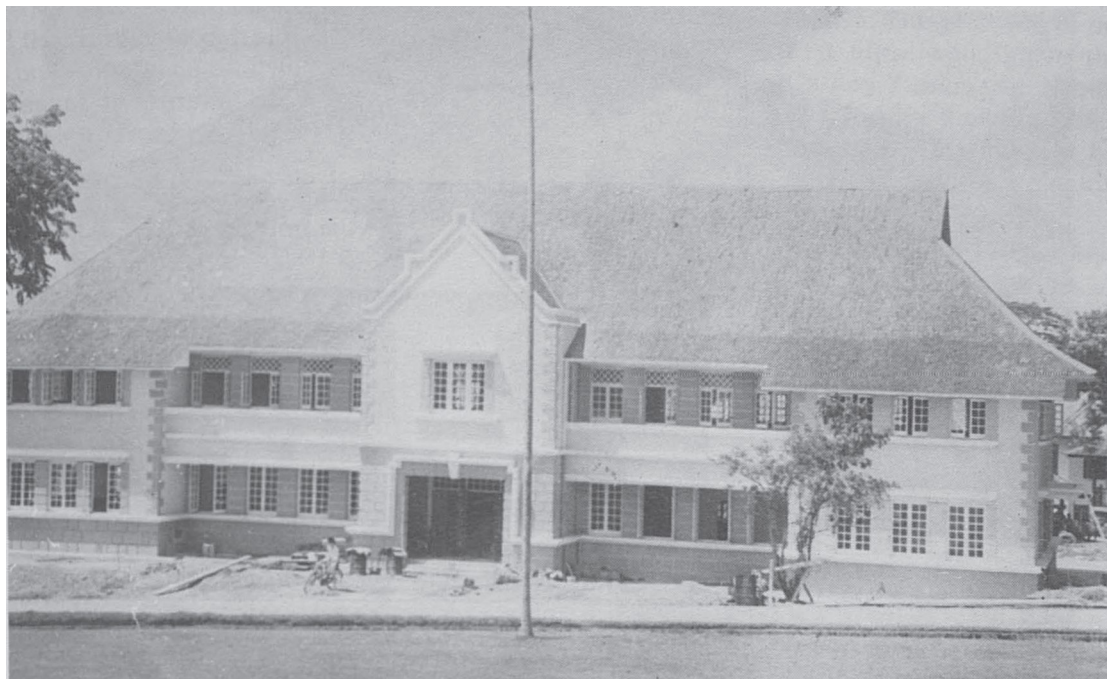
He said that he followed the excellent idea of the Government of establishing this hotel and he had done his best to achieve that aim and acknowledged with appreciation the cooperation of Government departments and various Chinese dealers.

Mr. Tan concluded by saying that he would like to add that suggestions for further improvements in the hotel were always welcome and he hoped that the people would give their suggestions, if any, to him.

Mr. Tan's reply was translated into English by Mr. E. Smith, the Supervisor of the Aurora Hotel.

Mr. Smith is an experienced man in hotel business having formerly been in the Management of the Raffles Hotel, Singapore, since pre-war years.





## The New Museum Building 1955

The new building of the Sarawak Museum, costing about \$250,000, has been completed and was taken over about a fortnight ago from the builders by the Curator.

Part of the Museum's offices and the archives have already moved in but it is learned that the new Museum is not expected to be fully ready until well into next year.

The Curator, Mr. Tom Harrison has said that when the Museum is completely ready it should provide splendid facilities for students, scholars, educational studies, serious reading about scientific and historical subjects and in other ways supplement the Main Building's exhibits by catering for those who want to carry their studies of Sarawak a stage further.

Although the new building has cost about \$250,000 there will probably be considerable further provision for modern furnishing and equipment in addition to that already established over the last five years.

Extensive new collections have been acquired by the Museum in the past year, according to the latest issue of the Museum Journal. These include:

1. A colony-wide bird collection, largely through the generosity of Mr. Loke Wan Tho of Singapore.
2. Something like half a million archaeological pieces, through the activities of the Museum directly, sponsored by Sarawak Government in co-operation with the Brunei Government; generous gifts from Mr. G.E. Wilford, Mr. A.R.G. Morrison and others. In Niah Caves, the first successful early stoneage excavation made in Borneo has also yielded a rich harvest.
3. Important increases in the photograph collections including some fine pictures taken by the Museum photographer.
4. Re-housing and reorganising of the plant collection, a valuable one. This has been kept in equipment and conditions of half a century ago.



## The Lilian Theatre Cathay Cinema Open Today, First Night Proceeds To Charity

There are many new features in the renovation which, apart from the main structure of the premises, has given the cinema a new look that many patrons will find pleasingly surprising.

Under the supervision of Mr. William Eu, head of the Technical Branch of Cathay Organisation, a carefully planned interior decorating scheme has been introduced which has taken into account not only the colour but comfort and convenience as well.

### Complete Change

The walls of the building have been fitted with sound-breaking panels interspersed by wide louvred windows which can be adjusted to increase ventilation facilities. On the ceiling, which is completely redone,

are installed eight exhaust ventilator shafts.

Seating accommodation has been increased from the old 500-odd capacity to a total of 750. All seats are new and one new feature is that the reserved seats are placed behind the balcony seats, but are on tiered positions to give all a clear view of the screen.

### Newest Type Screen

Of the screen itself, a new 41' screen has been installed with the newest type in that it is hung from the top and can be shifted is overhung with a magnas-copic masking that can be adjusted to fit the screen to the size of the particular picture to be screened.

For stage shows a completely new dressing room

has been built in which all other modern conveniences.

### Streamline Design

Outside the hall new additions are the foyer from which access is gained to the office, the advanced booking section and the film distribution room and vault.

The railings which surrounded one side of the Lilian Theatre before have been maintained but the structure has been completely renovated in streamline design. A system of queueing is so designed that the possibility of black-marketing of tickets is now minimised.

Renovation work has been under the hands of Messrs. Wei Tah Construction Company who completed the job in 72 days' time.



Mr. Loke Wan Tho, head of the Cathay Organisation, is unfortunately unable to be present in person at this occasion. He is no stranger to Kuching, having been here on several occasions accompanied by Mrs. Loke, and is

a personal friend of the retiring Governor, Sir Anthony Abell.

Mr. Loke is a philanthropist and his generous contributions and support to many worthy institutions is well-

known. The proceeds of the first night opening of the Cathay Cinema to Scouts and Guides Building Funds is another instance of his keen interest in education and youth activities.



## BISHOP FORMALLY OPENS CLUB BUILDING

5th November, 1953

A gathering of about a hundred people, members of the Sarawak Union and their guests, was present at the official opening of the new building of the Sarawak Union, MacDougall Road, last Tuesday at 5 p.m.

To add to the air of celebration the spacious and airy Dance Hall was well decorated with Union Jacks and palm leaves.

Mr. Howell speaking before calling upon the Bishop to declare the building open, said that it gave him great pleasure to welcome His Lordship for the official Opening of the new building

of the Union.

He continued, "Although this building was completed some months ago, the members of this club have, with one accord, demanded that the official opening should be postponed until after Your Lordship's return from the United Kingdom.

"It is solely to you, My Lord Bishop, that we owe this valuable site and costly building for our club which is said to be one of the finest ever to be provided in South East Asia by the S.P.G. Mission. This new building will be an important land-

mark in the history of the club, and in the annals of that history Your Lordship's name will be grateful remembered and cherished.

"If the Mission has spent a large sum of money in providing this building for us, it is also, beyond doubt, a very good investment — an investment not in terms of money but in something more enduring, something where by the old boys of our school and members of our Church are brought closer together for the greater glory of our school and church.

"The ideals for which this club stands have been stressed before so often that it would seem rite to repeat them now. However, it would not be out of place to say that the club has, during the 50 years and more, of its existence assumed the character of an international association. Among our members we count peoples of many lands and many races differing from one another in religion, tradition and custom. But these do not constitute any barrier to the friendly intercourse and goodwill that is to be found amongst us. We have much to learn from other races, and we too have much to impart. In a small way, therefore, we are bridging the gap which in other and larger spheres is the cause of so much strife in the world

today."

Before concluding Mr. Howell said he wished to advert briefly to another subject which "is so dear to the heart of our good Bishop, I refer to the new Cathedral. I am sure that the members of this club cannot show their gratitude to their Bishop better than by doing everything in their power to see that his dream comes true, and in this we shall not fail."

Mr. Howell then called upon His Lordship with his blessing to declare the building open.

Speaking next the Bishop mentioned that he was very happy to be present at the opening of the building of the Sarawak Union and he thanked all those for their patience and kindness in postponing the official opening of the new building until his return from leave.

The Bishop said he had for the last ten days been denying himself the pleasure of coming into the new building whenever he passed there until the official opening.

He mentioned that Mr. Howell had reminded the gathering of the 50 years of the life of the Union. But he pointed out that even before 1899 there had been a Bible Club here.

"This Union", the Bishop continued, "is the child of the Church and I hope that the Union will remain the child of the Church, for as a child, the Club has grown up under the shadows of the Church."

He said that in the Union old pupils of the School could find pleasure and members could come to play, talk and think together and he hoped that the fellowship and harmony would continue and flourish in the lives of the members of the Club.

His Lordship also mentioned that while he was in England, he met Arch-deacon Sharp, who he believes is the 'real founder of the Sarawak Union' and he was able to tell him of the progress and hopes of the future welfare of the Club.

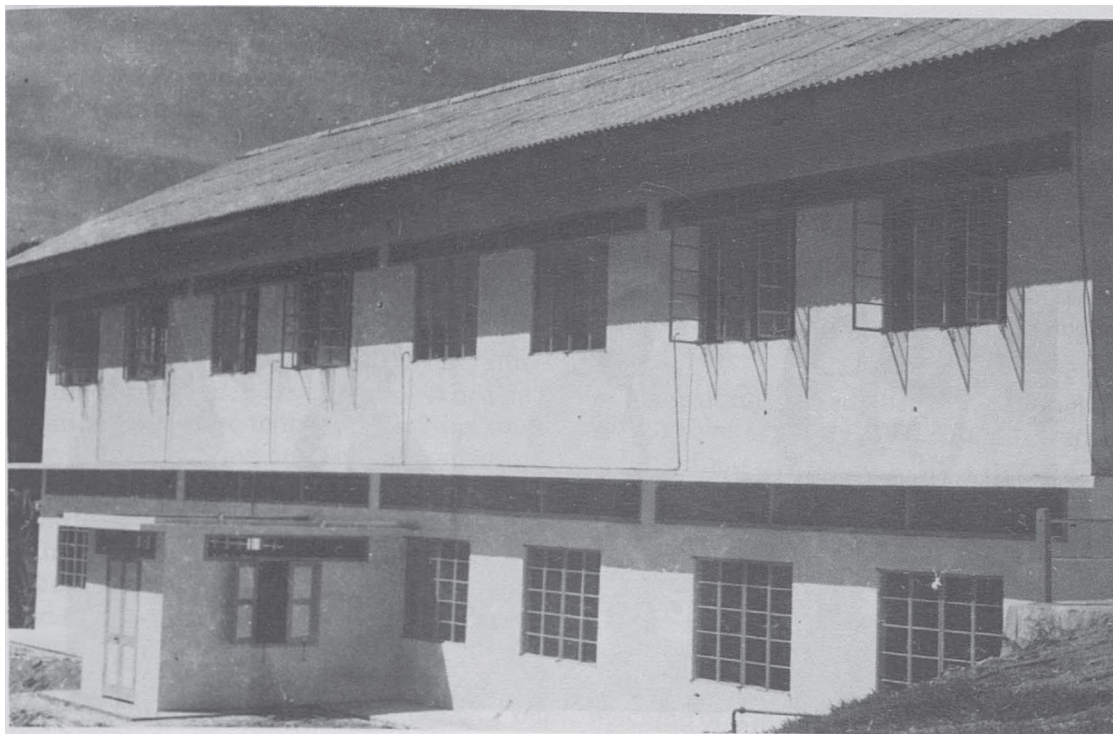
He paid tribute to Mr. Howell, Committee Mem-

bers and their associates for their co-operation and desire to go hand in hand with the whole work of this fellowship.

The Hon Secretary, Mr. Kong Yu Siung then handed a pair of scissors and with that pair of scissors His Lordship, in declaring the new building of the Sarawak Union open, cut the Red and Black ribbons, at the entrance of the clubhouse. The pair of scissors was presented to His Lordship as a memento.

The building was then officially occupied and in the Hall the Bishop said prayers and blessed the building.

Tea was served to all those present while the Bishop accompanied by Mr. Howell eagerly went round the various compartments of the new building.



## The Centenary Science Block 1953

History will be made in Kuching, if not in the whole of Sarawak when the new St. Thomas's School Science Building will be officially opened by His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell. The Opening Ceremony is scheduled to be held at 4.45 p.m. today.

The new building is built at a cost of approximately \$120,000 including about \$30,000 worth of first rate and up-to-date Science equipment. The building which has six spacious halls stands on the site of the old wooden attap-roof building which housed the former Tuck-shop and some class rooms.

Standing by the side of the old main School building and opposite the Assembly Hall, the new Science Building represents a unique picture by itself. With the completion of this fine building St. Thomas's School will provide the children of this town and of the neighbouring towns with the best of educational facilities.

The building has three halls upstairs — two Lecture Rooms and a Physical Laboratory, and three halls down stairs — a Chemical Laboratory, an Analytical Laboratory and a Preparation Room. At the back adjoining the

building is a small annexe in which will be installed a Petrol Gas Generator.

The Sarawak Tribune was told, in an interview, that most of the Science equipment has arrived in Kuching. The Petrol Gas Generator and some other articles are still in Singapore pending transhipment to Kuching.

The building which has just been completed is brightly painted and it commands a very good view. It was built by a local contractor, Mr. Chong Ah Law. The Architect is Mr. Ngo Poh Long, an old boys of St. Thomas's School.

The Tribune was told that a special tablet at the entrance of the Analytical Laboratory will be put up in commemoration of Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang, also an old boy of the School, who had contributed \$10,000 towards the cost of the building.

There are about 100 students who are taking up Science lessons under the able tutorship of the Principal, the Rev. William Lees, (Mrs. Chi Mei-Si and Mr. Yohannan John). There are also 18 students from the Higher School Certificate Class who are taking up Science lessons.



When your Reporter made the interview, the Principal and his energetic staff and pupils were busy removing the equipment from the Assembly Hall to the new building.

Invitation cards have been send to all old Thomians, friends and well-wishers of the

School to attend this Opening Ceremony. The Rev. W. Lees has also made an open invitation to all old Thomians, friends and well-wishers who have made generous contributions towards the Science Appeal Fund to be present to witness this great occasion in the history of St. Thomas's School, Kuching.



## **Governor Pays Tribute To Rev's Vision and Leadership**

This building which I am officially opening this evening is an excellent example of what can be achieved by co-operation. The scheme has been made possible financially by the generosity of a large number of old boys and friends of St. Thomas's School throughout Sarawak and the State of Brunei. To all these people this country is deeply grateful. Let us not forget in our expression of gratitude to pay tribute to the tax-payer in Great Britain a person who is taxed in a way that is inconceivable to people in this country but nevertheless they have contributed by way of a grant a sum of \$50,000 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. In addition, contributions have been made by the State of Brunei and by the British Malayan Petroleum Co. which I am sure are greatly appreciated. It is in fact a great combined effort — the mission, the school, the people of Sarawak, the people of a friendly and neighbouring State, private enterprise and the people of our mother country Great Britain. What more fitting then for an opening ceremony than on the eve of Coronation Week when we will express our loyalty to the Queen and our unity under her as a great family of nations helping

each other and we hope the world to live in peace and happiness and prosperity.

"Before declaring this Centenary Science Block open, it is fitting that I should pay a tribute to the vision and leadership of the Reverend Principal. He it is who has provided the inspiration, the initiative and the energy which has made this possible. I congratulate also the architect and contractor whose joint efforts have resulted in the completion of this excellent building."

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G. paid tribute to the vision and leadership of the Rev. W. Lees when he addressed the large gathering during the Opening Ceremony of the new St. Thomas's School Centenary Science building last Friday afternoon, on the eve of Coronation Week in Kuching.

His Excellency said, "I am very glad Mr. Principal that you have decided to call this fine new-building the Centenary Science Block for it is right and proper that the present should pay tribute to the achievements of the past. You can look back with pride and grati-

tude on the valuable contribution this School has made to the educational progress in this country. The Government and the people have received vital nourishment and sound leadership in all walks of life from the old Boys of St. Thomas's. The education received here and the character training which has gone with it has given this country a sound and sine foundation on which we can build with confidence in the future.

"But let us now look forward to the future. This Science Block is, I feel, a symbol of a new age and a challenge to the youth of this country to take a full part in the development of their country. Not only is it an important step in the development of educational facilities for the children of Sarawak, not only is it a part of the expansion and improvement of our secondary schools, a section of our development programme which is progressing very satisfactorily, not only does it provide a wider range of subjects now being taught in our schools; above all else it will provide for the future a basic training which will allow us to man the professional services of the country with Sarawak boys and girls.

"As you are aware, at the present time we have to invite to this country men of the best qualifications and experience for our Medical Services, for our Agricultural and Forestry Departments, for our Public Works and Survey, and for other branches of Government service which require a high standard of education and technical skill. It is not the intention of Government to continue this process for longer than it is necessary. We want to fill these vital posts with Sarawak men and women. We want to make sure that we can provide the high standard of education and basic training in this country which will allow our boys and girls to gain admittance to the best universities of the world to continue their education so that they can return to us fully qualified to serve the Departments of Government and lead this country along its road of peaceful progress and prosperity.

"We hope to acquire qualified agriculturists who can help our farmers to improve methods of cultivating the soil and draw from its hidden riches. We hope to acquire fully qualified doctors and nurses to tend to our sick and needy. We require engineers. We require surveyors. All these posts are open to the future children of Sarawak and to the future pupils of this School who will learn the radiments of their skill and training within these walls.

"A start has already been made, I believe in 1952 several of our Sarawak pupils were for the first time successful in the science Cambridge School Certificate examination and there are indications that the number of pupils attempting science papers will increase and that in the near future some candidates will have reached the standard of the Cambridge Higher School Certificate in this subject, and it is not only in St. Thomas's School that the teaching of science has been introduced satisfactorily. Similar developments have taken place in St. Joseph's School in Kuching and the Methodist School in Sibul. At these schools new science blocks and equipment to modern standard is being provided. I am also glad to hear that the parallel development in our main Girls Secondary School is the provision of buildings and equipment for the teaching of domestic science.



## Headquarters Building Open Result Of Fireless Effort

The British Red Cross (Sarawak Branch) Society Headquarters Building was yesterday afternoon officially opened by His Excellency the Governor.

Speaking before the gathering the President of the Society, Mrs. L.D. Kennedy said:

We are, very much indebted to His Excellency for coming here this evening to open our 'Red Cross Headquarters building and I should like to tell you, Your Excellency, how much you have encouraged us by the interest you have always shown in our work and the support you have given it.

It would take too long to enumerate all the uses to which this building will be put but here are just a few. It will be the nerve centre of our Organisation at all times and in the event of emergencies, such as floods or fire, Red Cross relief work will be directed from here. In every day affairs which are unspectacular but most essential members will be on duty in the office each week-day morning to answer enquiries and give whatever assistance they can; members of the work party whose main function is to keep the clothing cupboard well stocked so as to meet the heavy demands made upon it, not only by those in

the vicinity of Kuching but through-out the Colony, will foregather here each week; there is to be a milk centre organised for needy children; evenings for the the handicapped when they can enjoy some form of entertainment are to be arranged; the Detachments and at least some of our Junior Links will use this building for meetings and lectures. We hope to run a Saturday morning shop where, if our friends and members are feeling energetic, you may be able to buy things ranging from home-baked cakes and sweets to plants and seedlings or a hand-knitted sweater, while proceeds from work done by the handicapped will be handed over to the handicapped themselves. There are no bounds to the work of the Red Cross but the limits imposed by our financial resources and the number of our working members.

It is entirely due to the splendid efforts of the members of the Society and the willing and generous co-operation of the Public that this building has been made possible. To our members and to the Public we say most sincerely "Thank You". But there is one person in particular to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude for all the time he has so freely spent on our Headquarters building,



and that is Mr. William Tan.

The British Red Cross Society and by that I mean the Parent body in London has one way of showing its appreciation and this is by granting honorary life membership to a person. Only for outstanding meritorious service is this given but it gives me very great pleasure to ask Your Excellency to present to Mr. Tan the badge of honorary Life Membership of the British Red Cross Society.

Before asking Your Excellency to open our building we should be so pleased if you would present Certificates to those who have passed their Red Cross Nursing examination.

After the presentation of the Certificates the Governor in his address said:-

I am very grateful to the President of our Local Branch of the Red Cross Society for her invitation to me to open this very fine building which will henceforth service as the Headquarters of the Branch.

When I saw the foundation stone laid and watched from time to time the growth of this imposing building I must admit I had some doubts as to the necessity and prudence of spending so great a sum of money on a Headquarters as large and spacious as this at the present stage of development of the Society. I am now, however, convinced of the wisdom and foresight which dictated this decision. This building, which is another worthy example of the skill of Mr. William Tan, will I feel by its very presence here serve to guarantee that the affairs and objects of this great Society will be pursued with the same energy, sense of urgency and devotion to the cause which have characterised the recent years under Mrs. Kennedy's leadership.

The local Association can indeed be proud of its achievements in Kuching during the period since the war and this building which has been made possible by the generosity of the citizens of Sarawak both rich and poor expresses the community's firm confidence in the future of the Red Cross in Sarawak.

The years ahead will produce their own problems and the first and most pressing of which will be the question of leadership. Mrs. Kennedy is unfortunately leaving Sarawak in the near future. I know that she has been very well supported by her fellow workers and she has been well supported by the public but I know too that everyone will agree that the initiative, the drive, and the imagination have come from her. She has worked with a single

mindful devotion to duty which should remain an inspiration not only to the members of the Society but also to the wider circle of her acquaintances. This building will serve as a reminder of a standard which has been set and must be maintained.

I am sure that in time we will find a worthy successor to Mrs. Kennedy. I am encouraged in this belief by the work of the Social Welfare Council under the energetic leadership of the Director of Medical Services. I am glad to have this opportunity of paying tribute to the members of this Council who are all busy people in many different walks of life but all give a great deal of their time and interest to the work of social welfare. The Council contains a very strong mixture of all the talents and races and is an outstanding example of the strength and resilience which comes from unity in our polyglot society.

This corner of Kuching contains three notable modern buildings — the Atas Clinic, the Government Outpatients Department and the Red Cross. Two of these are the offsprings of voluntary effort. All three are devoted to the needs of humanity. We can be proud of this corner of Sarawak; it provides the proof that this generation is not entirely taken up with the business of making money and is not so materialist as it is sometimes painted and that it can walk worthily with the example and the inheritance it has received from the past.

Today is November the 11th, a day which will forever be sanctified in the minds of those who were alive in the first World War. On this day 35 years ago the Armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany and the bloodiest and most frightful war in history was brought to its close. It was a day of great rejoicing, a day when new hope was born and future stretched bright and calm before us. During the war the Emblem of the Red Cross entered the homes and the hearts of millions of people not only at the battle front in Europe but throughout the world. The Emblem became the symbol of virtue and hope in a disillusioned world, so I feel that this anniversary day is appropriate to this occasion when the Headquarters of the Red Cross is opened in this young and promising country as a mark of confidence in the future and as an assurance that the future citizens of this country will put the principles and ideals of voluntary service to mankind before all else.



22/10/1954

## Governor Open New Science Building

At least more than a thousand people were present last Wednesday evening outside the new Science building of St. Joseph's School, Rock Road, to attend the official opening ceremony of the new premises.

Very impressive indeed with its simple decoration the new building stood in royal weather before the admiring eyes of the guests who as they arrived, were welcomed by the Principal of the School, the Rev. Brother Patrick and the Chairman of the Building Fund Committee, Mr. William Tan.

Scouts of the School Troop flanked the pathway leading to the main door, and shortly after 5.30 p.m. His Excellency the Governor accompanied by the Chief Scout of the Commonwealth, Lord Rowallan and party arrived.

After the opening speech by the Rev. Brother Director, followed by speeches by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Vos and the Director of Education, the Governor was presented with a Souvenir Magazine and the Key of the Building by Vincent Wong.

Before Sir Anthony declared the Building officially open he addressed the gathering:

The Souvenir Magazine which has just been presented to me records in a most attractive way the inspiring history and the notable achievement of St. Joseph's School over the

past sixty years. The development of the buildings, the great increase in enrolments, the marked improvements in academic standards are visible indications of the progress made over this period. But the real evidence of the valuable contribution which this school has made to the welfare of Sarawak is in the large number of notable citizens who received their schooling in "St. Joseph's". In all walks of life, in our Council of State, in professional and commercial spheres, in Government Departments, are to be found Old Boys of sterling worth whose characters and standards of values were formed in this school.

This fine new building which I count it a great privilege to open is a fitting memorial to the faith and devotion of Missionaries, teaching staff and Old Boys who have been responsible for the founding and subsequent development of "St. Joseph's." We acknowledge today the deep debt of gratitude we owe to all these people.

But this building is more than a memorial to the past; it is also a sign of confidence and promise for the future. The outstanding contributions to educational development in Sarawak which have been made by the Roman Catholic Mission, along with other Christian agencies, is well known to all. This building is visible proof that the Roman

Catholic Mission are resolved to keep pace with the times and to provide standards of education which are in keeping with modern requirements. I am confident that under the wise and experienced guidance of Reverend Brother Director Patrick, and with enthusiastic help of his assistants, the future attainments of the present and future generations of pupils will match the high standards of buildings now being provided.

In the future the need for local citizens with wider knowledge, combined with the old traditions of loyalty, understanding and tolerance, will be even more vital than it has been in the past. The training of people of this calibre is essential for the successful outcome of the constitutional changes which are envisaged and the development of local Government which is in progress. We need Councillors and citizens who will be capable of playing their part, to an ever-increasing extent, in the management of the affairs of their own country. We need people who will strive for the common good, displaying understanding and tolerance irrespective of differences in communities, languages and creeds. I am certain that "St. Joseph's" has a most important part to play in helping to meet these essential needs.

The expansion and improvement of our educational services which will be reviewed in the near future presents a challenge to all concerned. The closest and friendliest co-operation between all the voluntary educational agencies themselves, will be essential to ensure that the maximum progress is achieved within the limitations of our finances and staff. Joint planning to common objectives will have to be undertaken in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication of educational facilities.

## PRINCIPAL REVIEWS RESULTS

A review of the ambitious plan, the energetic and enthusiastic campaign, followed by quick construction work and ultimately resulting in the completion of the St. Joseph's new Science Building was made by the Rev. Brother Director of the School, the Rev. Brother Patrick last Wednesday evening before a large gathering before the new building was declared officially open by His Excellency the Governor.

The building which I am now about to open is an example of what can be achieved with co-operation; co-operation between the architects, the builders, and the numerous well-wishers of the school who have contributed so generously. I congratulate all concerned on this splendid outcome of their combined efforts and I thank them on behalf of Government and of the large number of children who will benefit.

I have now much pleasure in officially opening this "St. Joseph's Science Building"

Three cheers for His Excellency were called for by a School Prefect and the large number of guests then made their way into the new premises "on a tour of inspection.

Refreshments were served and the guests were later entertained to short sketches by the pupils of the school in the William Tan Auditorium. Musical selections were rendered during the evening's ceremony by the Sarawak Constabulary Band (with the kind permission of the Commissioner).

The new building block is constructed of reinforced concrete and bricks and comprises laboratories for physic and chemistry, assembly hall, class rooms and teachers rooms. It reflects the most progressive techniques in architectural design for a modern school, having been planned for maximum efficiency and economy. The total cost is estimated at \$325,000.

On the ground floor are two science laboratories and a large store in the main block with 4 classrooms and a teacher's room at the adjoining block. The first floor comprises a large auditorium to accommodate 600 students, flanked on one and by a concert stage. Spacious verandahs on either side are provided and one part of these lead to a row of classrooms and teacher's room.

Rev. Brother Patrick said:

It is a great honour to have Your Excellency here this evening to declare these buildings open. For a time we were not so sure that you could come; circumstances, however, made it necessary to postpone your well-earned leave to the United Kingdom, and that delay has been to our advantage. We would have been greatly disappointed otherwise, knowing the great interest Your



Excellency has always taken in our school.

The presence of His Lordship, our Bishop, our distinguished guest, Lord Rowallan, so many of the Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Brothers as well as large gathering of the public is deeply appreciated as indicating the widespread interest taken in our work.

Today is truly a red-letter day in the history of St. Joseph's School, marking as it does a double event, namely the completion of the new Science Laboratories, Hall and Classrooms, and the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the first permanent building of St. Joseph's School.

We should like in the first place, to thank the Government of Sarawak not only for using its good offices to secure from the Colonial Development Scheme 50% of the cost of the Science Block and Apparatus, but also for granting us all facilities in our efforts to raise funds.

The plans and designs of these buildings are the work of the well-known firm of Singapore architects — Swan and MacLaran — specialists in school building. We have reason to be grateful to Messrs. Swan and MacLaran and especially to Mr. C.Y. Koh for his unfailing courtesy, patience, advice, consideration and understanding of our peculiar difficulties. This fine building is a monument to the Firm's architectural skill.

The work of construction and supervision was done by Mr. William Tan and I feel that I owe him a well-deserved tribute, for I do not see how we could have put up this very expensive building without him. It was his determination, trust in Providence, confidence in the people and especially his reliance on the Old Boys for help and encouragement, that spurred him and us on to the colossal undertaking.

Mr. Tan gave of his best, sacrificing his valuable time and giving every care and attention to the smallest details of construction, while at the same time, as Chairman of the Building Fund Committee he very efficiently organised Sub-Committees and personally visited his influential friends in the interests of the School, adding his own generous contribution to swell the funds.

To all this must be added his efforts to get material at reasonable prices and to supervise

the construction without any remuneration all for the sake of his old School.

In his efforts to raise funds to meet the enormous cost he was ably assisted by a very energetic committee of Old Boys and Friends who willingly sacrificed their time and rest to assist.

You will notice when you are making your rounds of the building that classrooms have been named after our chief benefactors and you will probably be likely to discover one serious omission. There seems to be no recognition of the Old Boys and Friends of Kuching. But, I am sure, you will understand that the whole building is dedicated to the Kuching Old Boys and Friends and to the generations of children who will come after them so that it would not at all befitting to limit them to a single classroom.

Nor can we forget the host of benefactors of every rank and degree who gave of their abundance or of their meagre resources as the case may be. Their names will be found in our Jubilee Magazine though I regret to say we were compelled for want of space to omit some. For this omission I offer my sincere apologies.

To Datu Bandar who was responsible for organising the Malay Community and for the magnificent sum raised by that Community, I offer my sincerest thanks and I shall be most grateful if he will convey to every one of the subscribers my deepest gratitude.

I make no apology for singling out Mr. Polycarp Sim for special mention on this occasion. He more than any other was responsible for visiting almost every old boy in Kuching and the vicinity, and sacrificing all his holidays during the last two years to make sure that the building was not held up for want of funds.

Thanks are also due to the untiring efforts of the other teachers of the staff for their help in thousands of ways, and to the pupils of the school who contributed so generously out of their pocket-money.

But we are also commemorating another event in the School's history this evening, namely the 60th anniversary of the old school, of the erection in 1894, of the first permanent structure by the Venerated Father Haideggar. It is true that the school was founded 12 years

previously, in 1882, but we think it fitting to commemorate the biggest event of 60 years ago in connection with the school and paying a well-deserved tribute to the Fathers who steered the good ship through many a storm in its 60 years of existence. Much progress has been made both in the material and academic spheres and much energy has been spent by the good Fathers and their valiant assistants since the first foundation but their joy and consolation is to know that they have not worked in vain.

Brick and mortar, though necessary, do not constitute a school. It is the teaching imparted, the teachers that impart it and the co-operation of the pupils that make a school what it ought to be.

To judge of St. Joseph's, we have only to look around us and see what manner of men this school has moulded. Hundreds of old boys fill important posts in Government departments, commercial and business firms and all give a good account of themselves and are worthy of the trust reposed in them. The Fathers who were responsible for the work during these years of the school's history have every reason to be proud of their old boys.

We, the Christian Brothers, can lay little claim to the great past of St. Joseph's. We must leave it to future generations to judge of our work and of our worth. We only hope that we shall be worthy of our great predecessors and maintain the high standard set us on that memorable day of January 1950 when St. Joseph's was entrusted to our care.

## Opening Of A New Era

Consideration of the opening of the new buildings of the St. Joseph's School held on Wednesday evening as symbolical of the opening of a new era of better education facilities for our children of the future was observed by the Director of Education, Mr. H. Earnshaw when he spoke to a large gathering on this occasion.

Mr. Earnshaw said:

I welcome this opportunity to congratulate all who have helped to provide these excellent new buildings. The enthusiastic efforts of Brother Patrick and his large band of helpers have resulted in the provision of up-to-date accommodation; accommodation of a standard of which they are feel justly proud. On behalf of the Education Department I convey our very best thanks for this valuable addition to the improved educational facilities being provided under various auspices for the young people of this developing country.

The very fine new Assembly Hall now being made available will fill a long-felt need. The response of the Old Boys to the appeal for financial help to make this building scheme possible is certain evidence of their strong loyalty to the school, and affection for the school, which have been fostered in spite of physical handicap over the past period. To have achieved such a strong esprit-de-corps without a room where all the pupils could be

gathered together is most creditable to those who have previously laboured under such difficulties. Therefore it is most encouraging to assess the corporate spirit which will be possible now that all pupils, of all standards and communities, will be able to assemble together as a body in such an inspiring Hall.

The provision of this Assembly Hall will also be a great stimulus to the cultural and social activities which have been developing so promisingly in recent years. I can now foresee lectures, debates, plays, musical concerts becoming a much more important and regular feature of the activities of "St. Joseph's". I hope too that this will result in much closer co-operation between the parents and the staff. The advantages of such closer contacts between parents and teachers for the welfare of the children cannot be stressed too strongly. In ordinary times such joint interest in the pupils is very desirable; in these days it is essential.

The Science Laboratories fill yet a further need. The economic development of Sarawak will demand qualified people in agriculture, forestry and engineering who have received a sound training in scientific subjects. We also need doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists who required basic instruction in science. An even greater need is to develop in all our educated citizens powers of logical reasoning

resulting in an ability to decide between the "true" and the "false".

The buildings which are being opened by His Excellency today meet some of the urgent physical needs. But there is an even more important, in fact a vital need. This is a human need, the need for increased numbers of well-educated and professionally trained teachers. Good buildings and equipment are being provided, the pupils are waiting. Hence the urgent need now is for trained teachers. Therefore I appeal to the young men and women to come forward to fill this essential gap. Our Overseas Scholarships Scheme provides opportunities for Sarawak students to qualify for degrees and teaching diplomas at Universities. There are local schemes which cater for the training of teachers for the Junior classes. Thus the opportunities already exist; we now only need the students to take

advantage of these opportunities to equip themselves for a teaching profession of a standard which the children of Sarawak deserve. Young students are, only naturally; often apt to be primarily interested in careers offering the highest financial returns. But surely school authorities and parents must realize how essential it is to build up our teaching staff, in both numbers and standards. I would therefore ask all teachers and parents to try to convince more of their students and children of the vital importance of the teaching profession and thus encourage more of them to decide to devote their lives to this important work.

I consider the opening of these new buildings as symbolical of the opening of a new era; an era of better educational facilities for our children of the future.





*Her Royal Highness at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone at the new Cathedral Kuching. The Right Reverend the Bishop of Borneo, Nigel Cornwall is immediately behind the Vicar, the Rev. S.J.S. Peach.*

Photograph by Anna Studio

## The laying of the foundation stone of the new Cathedral Church of St. Thomas, Kuching

The building of a new Cathedral is an outstanding event in the life of any diocese, an important event to be long remembered. The Christians of Kuching, and indeed of the whole country of Sarawak, will remember and look back with joy on the memorable afternoon of October 15th, when Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent laid the foundation stone of a new Cathedral Church of St. Thomas.

It is now more than a hundred years since the first Anglican missionary landed in this country; the Rev. Francis Mac Dougall was invited to come and work in Sarawak and in 1847 he received from the first Rajah a grant of the land where the Cathedral and Schools of St. Thomas's and St. Mary's now stand, and eight years later this same priest became the first Bishop of the Diocese. To read the life of Francis Mac Dougall is to read a first class adventure story; he was a great

man, (using the word 'great' in its widest and best sense), a man of spiritual vision and at the same time a man with a very practical turn of mind. He was in turn, and at different times, a missionary, a doctor, a teacher, an architect, and a builder, and he set about his enormous task with such determination of purpose and firmness of resolution, that in two years he had established his Mission, built his own house and the Chinch and started the school and his dispensary where previously there had been nothing. No mean achievement for a man working single-handed for some years.

There can be no doubt that he laid those foundations well, and the progress of the Anglican mission in this land of Sarawak since those days bears witness to his good work. True there have been periods when progress has been slow and, in company with the Church in other lands, this Church

in Borneo has had many ups and downs, but the work has gone on and expanded and we pay honour and tribute to the labours of that first outstanding Bishop, Francis Mac Dougall. For we are still using the Cathedral which he built, although the building has been altered and enlarged from time to time. Now it cannot be enlarged any more and the damage done to it during the time of the Japanese occupation is damage beyond effective repair. Hence the reason for a new Cathedral, which in turn will also serve as a fitting memorial to the life and work of the man who built this present Cathedral and who did so much for the people of this country.

So, as we rejoice and give thanks for the labours of the past, we also look forward with faith and confidence to the future, and the laying of the foundation stone of a new St. Thomas's Cathedral is the symbol of that faith and confidence. The event of October 15th, 1952, was the beginning of great things. But perhaps it is hardly true to call it the beginning; much work had been done before that date in the matter of levelling the ground and clearing the site for the foundation stone. For some weeks before there had been outward signs that something was going to happen; mysterious little sticks stuck in the ground, the Bishop and others taking measurements from time to time, and then the arrival of a bulldozer which began cutting away the ground. It was obvious that the Church authorities were not doing all this just for the fun of the thing, some great move was 'in the air'.

A casual visitor, looking at the site a few days before the great day, would have said that it was impossible to get it ready in time! In parts it was a sea of mud and just when it appeared to be drying up a little, down would come some more rain and the resultant mixture was yet a little more sticky than before. But where there's all will there's a way; the ground was levelled and planks of wood were laid down all over it, with a pathway of paving stones leading up to a specially erected platform, and all was made ready for the ceremony. If the same casual visitor had returned to the site on the 11th he would hardly have recognized it as the same place, and by the afternoon of that day "Operation Camouflage" was complete and

all was ready for the important occasion. The flags were up, the stone was 'in situ', the elaborate system of roping off enclosures had been completed, the tickets for the occasion had been issued, last minute instructions had been given, and those taking part in the service knew exactly what they had to do and where they had to go.

Wednesday, October 15, dawned bright and sunny, but how many days in Sarawak dawn bright and sunny and end in torrential rain with water running everywhere! The weather remained good all through the morning and then about 2 o'clock the odd cloud began to make its appearance, and one began to wonder if the experience of the previous afternoon would be repeated. Her Royal Highness had very kindly consented to perform the ceremony on the Thursday evening if Wednesday afternoon proved too wet, but everyone knows that there is not the same keenness for a ceremony postponed, and all hoped that the weather would hold good. And it did! The threatening clouds just threatened and no more, and there was no rain until long after the official ceremony was over.

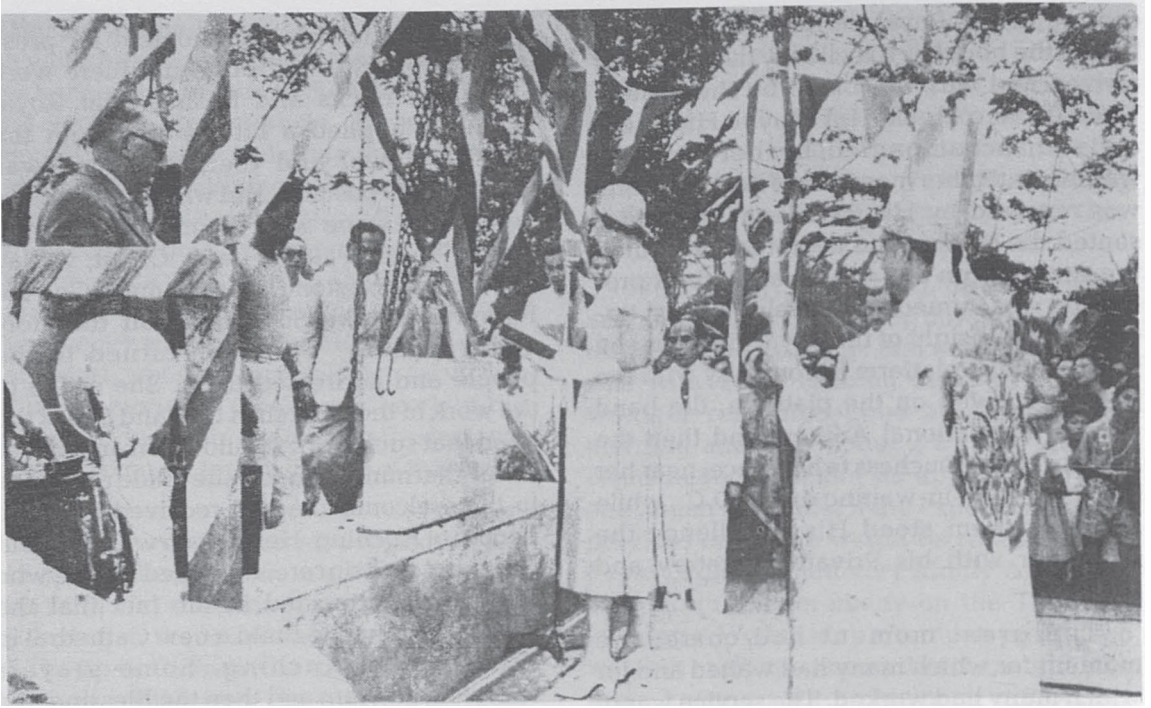
The scene before the service began was bright and colourful; the gay colours of the flags (red, white and blue and red, yellow and black) mingled with the gay dresses of the ladies, the white shirts of the men and the boys of St. Thomas's School, and the blue uniforms of the girls of St. Mary's School. The bank leading up from the site to the old Cathedral was one mass of people, and others were grouped on the piece of ground near the People's Dispensary and also near the raised platform. The band of the Sarawak Constabulary was there in their colourful uniforms, and every now and then some one would dart across the platform to make sure that all was ready. After a while faces turned in one direction, the processional cross could be seen, above the heads of the people, moving towards the platform. As it was borne up on to the platform the robed choir of the Cathedral appeared, followed by the clergy who took their places on the platform. Meanwhile the Bishop and his chaplains, together with the Archdeacon of Sarawak and the Vicar of the Cathedral, stood on the steps leading to the old Cathedral, where they awaited the

coming of the Royal party. A few minutes before the hour His Excellency the Governor arrived and was welcomed by the Bishop. Then at 4 o'clock Her Royal Highness arrived, accompanied by her lady-in-waiting and other members of her party. She was received by His Excellency, who presented the Bishop, and he in turn presented the Archdeacon and the Vicar. A short procession was formed and people stood on tip-toe to catch a sight of the Royal visitor as she walked to the platform in company with the Bishop. Arrived on the platform, the band played the National Anthem and then the Bishop led the Duchess to her place; near her stood her lady-in-waiting and A.D.C., while opposite them stood His Excellency the Governor with his Private Secretary and A.D.C.

The great moment had come, the moment for which many had waited and for which many had worked. The service was of a simple but impressive character. After the singing of a hymn, prayers were said and a lesson was read. Then followed the dedication of the stone by His Lordship and a second hymn, and during the singing of this hymn a brass canister containing various articles — a copy of the Kuching papers for that day, some coins of the country, a list of the clergy now working in the diocese, and other items — was placed in a specially prepared place beneath the stone. The Bishop gave a short address and ended by inviting Her Royal Highness to lay the foundation stone of a second Cathedral Church of St. Thomas. The Duchess was conducted to a small raised platform to perform this cere-

mony, and that was the moment for press photographers to get busy and there were numerous clicks and flashes. Her Royal Highness applied a little mortar with the special trowel and then the stone was lowered into position, and when lowered she tapped the stone with the mallet rising the words "In the Faith of Jesus Christ, we lay this foundation stone in the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, Amen." Then she turned to the people and addressed them. She spoke of the work of the Church in this land and of the need that such work should go on and, in her usual charming manner, she made reference to the welcome she had received from the people of Kuching. Her speech was short but one felt it was sincere, delivered by one who really was interested in the fact that the Church planned to build a new Cathedral in this town of Kuching. Some prayers followed, a hymn, and then the Blessing and the service was ended. In but remained to present to Her Royal Highness the architect's representative, the contractor, and members of the New Cathedral Committee. The short procession reformed, and the Royal lady was conducted to her seat. The vast crowd began to disperse, many people went along to read the inscription on the stone, and soon all had gone. But one thing remained, the foundation stone, symbol of the growing life and work of the Church in Sarawak, a silent witness to the pioneer work of Francis Mac Dougall, first Bishop of Labuan and Sarawak, and a challenge to the Christians of this generation, to continue that work which he began in 1817.





*Her Royal Highness laying the foundation stone of the new Cathedral, Kuching.*

**Photograph by Anna Studio**

## **The Address given by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent during the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Anglican Cathedral, Kuching on 15th October, 1952**

"To lay the foundation stone of a new Cathedral is a great privilege. I regard it as an act of faith, and a symbol of new birth, and of hope, at a period in the world's history when to look forward with courage is of tremendous importance to us all; and it is with the greatest pleasure that my short visit to your beautiful country gives me the opportunity of undertaking this ceremony today.

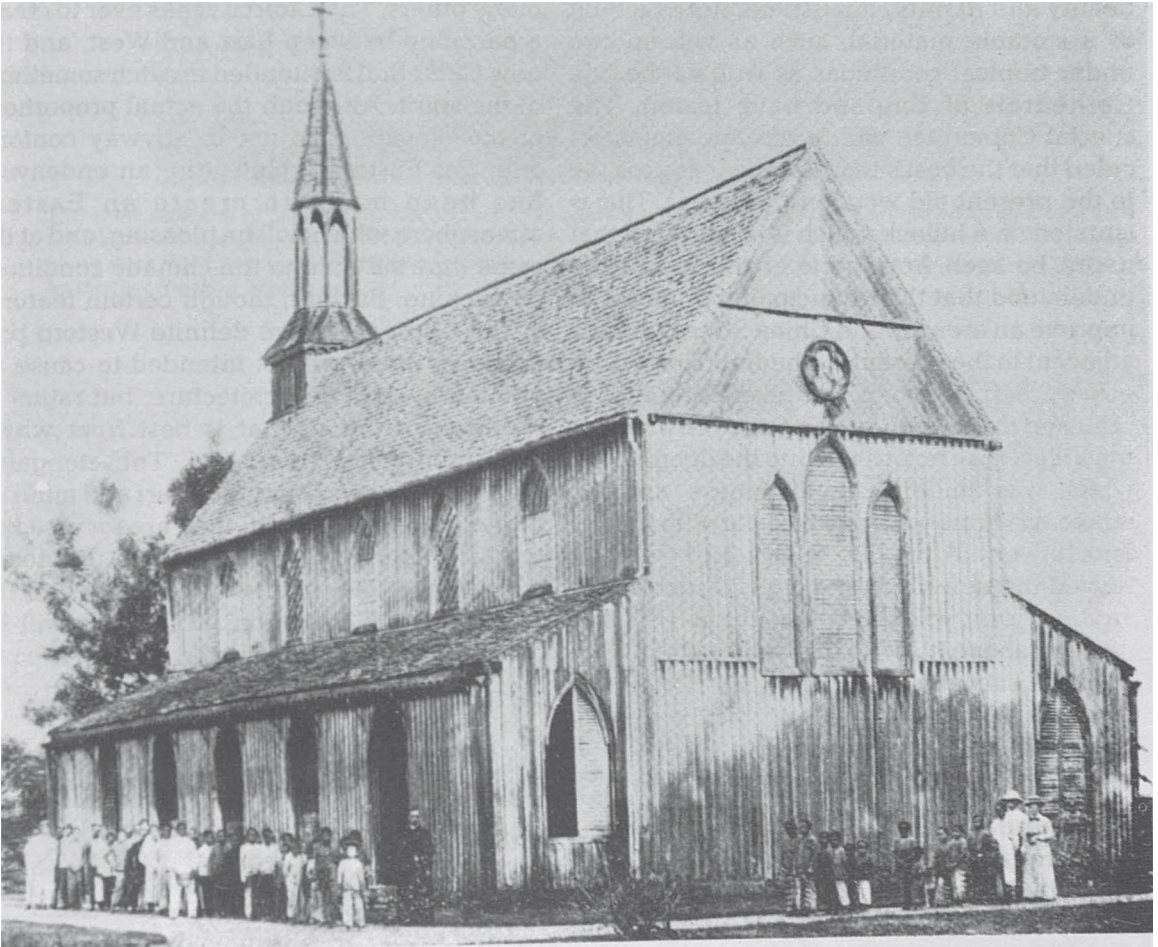
"During the last fifty years we have witnessed the spread of mistrust between peoples of all nations, culminating in two wars

with all their dreadful consequences; and at this very moment the growth of materialism and the forces of evil threaten man's existence.

"With all their strength men of goodwill are working to prevent the recurrence of yet another tragedy of this kind; but there is, I am certain, only one sure way out of our difficulties, and that is a return to the humble way of faith, which is the only foundation for our lives.

"In England we are fortunate in possessing a splendid legacy of Cathedrals and Churches bequeathed to us by our forefathers: buildings of great age and supreme beauty, they are the work of many hands who have adorned and added to them as generation has succeeded generation. Their beauty symbolises the faith in which our fathers lived and worked; here too, your first Bishop worked with the same spirit of devotion, building not for himself, but for the glory of God, and the well-being of his people.

"I rejoice, therefore, that I am able to be with you this afternoon, and to witness the first stage in the construction of this great building. It is my earnest hope that all Christians in this diocese, and Christians throughout the world, will unite in their support of the work which we have inaugurated today, and by their faith and generous giving will bring it to a triumphant conclusion."



*The old St. Thomas's Cathedral Kuching.*

# **The Cathedral Church Of St. Thomas, Kuching**

The present Cathedral Church of St. Thomas has served for a hundred years, but now the time has come to build a new Cathedral, large enough to hold 1000 persons, a building which will harmonize with the surrounding buildings already erected or planned, and which will be outstanding in beauty and dignity. It must therefore be built of a suitable material, such as will endure under tropical conditions as well as the fine Cathedrals of England have lasted. The special Committee which was appointed decided that the best site was as near as possible to the present old wooden Cathedral. This is situated on a hillock which is so elevated that it can be seen from parts of the town. It is understood that the Municipality proposes to improve an area around China Street which is adjacent to the present Cathedral. This will be greatly helped when the new Cathedral is built and the old one can be pulled down; then the hillock can be pushed into the deep ravine which was made by the Japanese, and the whole area can be nicely laid out with shrubs and flowers. After this hillock has been removed the new Cathedral will be seen to advantage for it will still command an elevated position above Rock Road; this is undoubtedly the best site possible, and it is a part of the property which was given to the Church by the first Rajah of Sarawak.

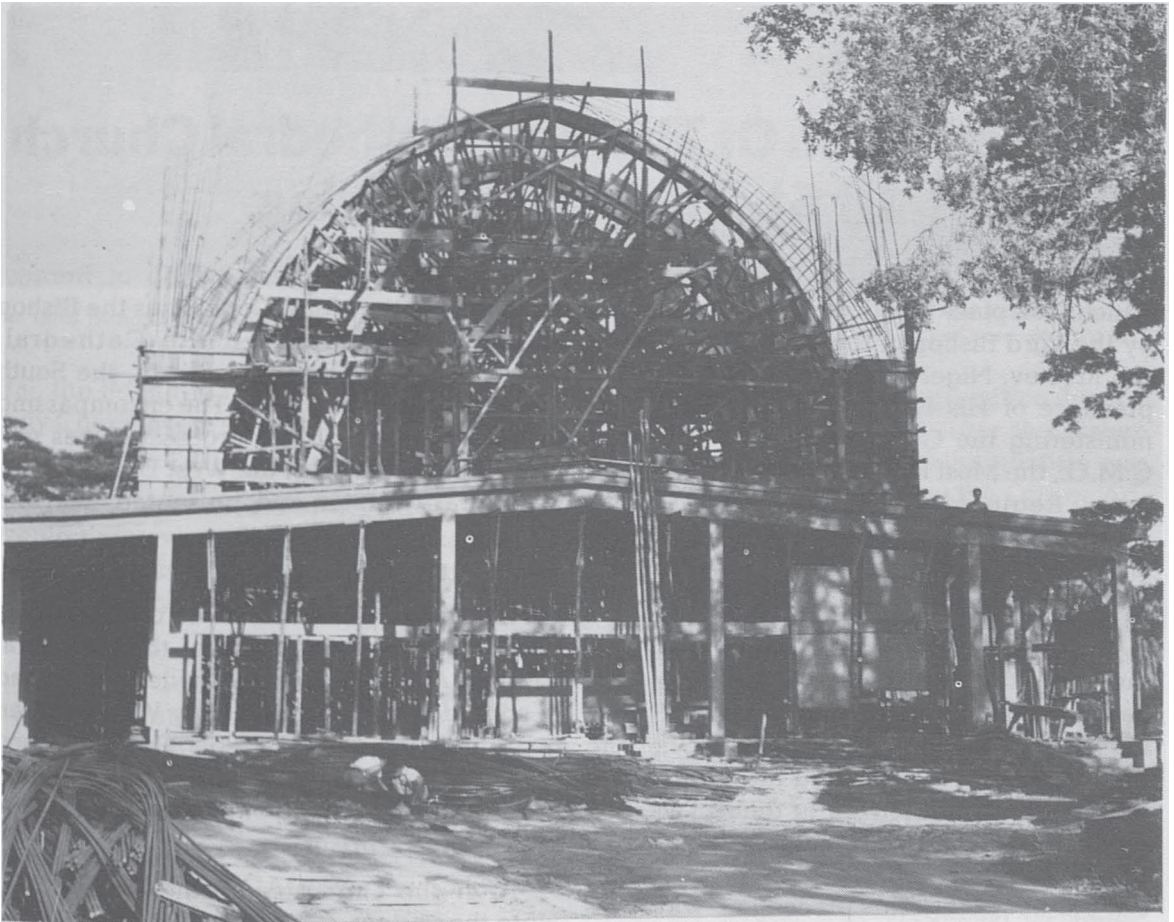
Plans are in existence for widening MacDougall Road, and many fine new buildings are contemplated in the Rock Road and MacDougall Road area. All this should enhance the position of the New Cathedral standing in its own grounds in the heart of the Town. Little by little those grounds will be levelled and planned and planted with the best trees and shrubs and flower beds that Sarawak can produce.

In the design of the new Cathedral it has been the Architect's endeavour to incorporate a Western plan and layout with the outward appearance of the influence of the Far East. Those who live around and worship within the Cathedral are people of many races, Dayak, Chinese, Malays, and Europeans and many others. The Church seeks ever to create a harmony between East and West, and the new Cathedral is intended to catch something of the spirit. Although the actual proportions of the elevation do not in anyway conform with Far Eastern architecture an endeavour has been made to create an Eastern atmosphere which will be pleasing, and at the same time suitable to the climatic conditions of Kuching. Further, though certain features of the Cathedral have definite Western proportions, these are not intended to cause an opinion in style of architecture, but rather to represent a cffit of that is best from where Christianity has flourished. The elongated dome lifts the eyes, and the heart and mind up higher and higher, until they are focussed on the large cross which surmounts the dome, and which is the climax of our faith and the symbol of our salvation. This cross will be picked out in gold and should be seen from all over the town.





*This is the cathedral of St. Thomas, Kuching which structure was built with reinforced concrete on an outer and an inner walls. The building is approximately 62 feet wide by 200 feet long. The Cathedral commands an elevated position above Rock Road, this is undoubtedly the best site possible, and it is a part of the property which was given to the church by the first Rajah of Sarawak.*



*The structure was built in reinforced concrete with an outer and an inner skin.*



## Consecration Of The New Cathedral Church Of St. Thomas's Kuching

The Consecration of the New Cathedral which took place on 9th June, was performed by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Borneo, the Rt. Rev. Nigel Edmund Cornwall, in the presence of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. J.H. Ellis, C.M.G., the Most Rev. the Archbishop of Brisbane, Reginald Halse, representatives of Anglicans Churches in Borneo and overseas, and many hundreds of people from Sarawak and other countries.

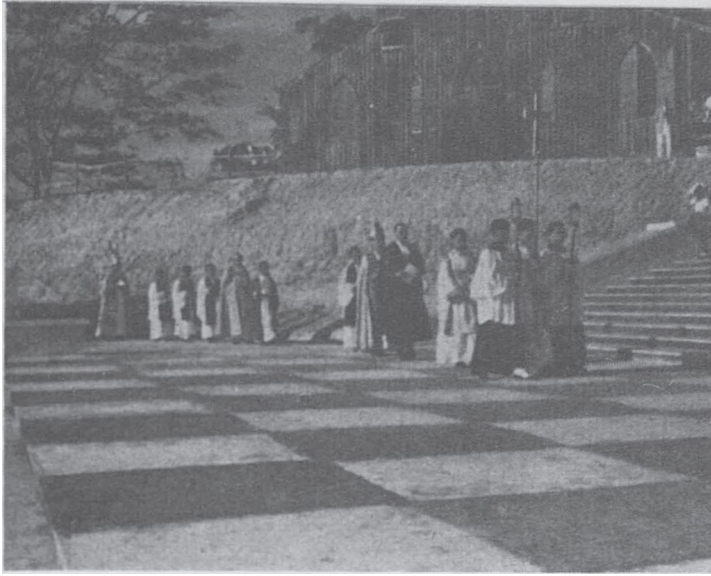
The service, which had been arranged by the very Rev. the Provost of Kuching, was based upon the York Pontifical and the Sarum rites. It began with two processions. When the first procession had entered the Church and the members had moved to their places the doors were closed. Meanwhile the second procession approached the great West Door, but did not enter. This procession, which included the very Rev. the Provost of Kuching,

and the Right Rev. the Bishop of Borneo, moved off to the North Door. Thus the Bishop solemnly encompassed the Cathedral. Knocking in turn upon the North, the South and finally the West doors. The encompassing completed, the Bishop's procession was met and admitted through the West Doors, by the Cathedral Chapter and presented with the Key.

Following the "Invocation" came "The Circuit of the Cathedral". For this a procession compassed the inside of the Cathedral Church. As the Bishop proceeded he paused to sprinkle the walls with Holy Water and an accompanying Clerk in Holy Orders censed them. At each of the twelve pillars of the Church the Bishop anointed the inlaid cross with Sacred Chrism.

After the Circuit came the Dedications. Here the various special places of the Cath-





*Approaching the New Cathedral.*



*The Lord Bishop's Procession approaching the West Door.*



*The Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Borneo, knocking on the West Door during the Sacred Rites of the Consecration of the Cathedral.*

dral, the Font, the Lectern, the Pulpit and the Lady Chapel were solemnly dedicated to their special uses.

Then came the culmination to the evening's service, the Act of Consecration, climaxing with the trumpeters sounding their fanfare and the bells rung.

After the Consecration of the Altars, came the Seals of Consecration. Here the Bishop laying his hand on the North wall of the Chancel, proclaimed:-

"THIS DWELLING IS GOD'S HABITATION; IT IS A POSSESSION ABOVE ALL PRICE, WHICH MAY NOT BE SPOKEN AGAINST."

The sentence of Consecration was read

out to the assembled congregation by the Chancellor of the Diocese. After the Bishop had signed the document, his signature was witnessed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. J.H. Ellis, the Chairman of the Kuching Municipality, Mr. J.C.B. Fisher, the very Rev. The Provost of Kuching, two members of the Cathedral Chapter and the two Churchwardens of the Parish of Kuching.

After a final hymn came the triple blessing by the Provost, the Archbishop of Brisbane, and the Bishop of Borneo. Thus, ended this service of Consecration of the New Cathedral.

The whole of this service, which lasted just over two hours, was broadcast by Radio Sarawak on both medium and short waves.





*The new K. M. C. three-storey Fire Station at the junction of Central Road East and Padungan Road.*

## An Achievement Of Pride

Another annal will be written when the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, performs the official opening of the new three-storey Fire Station and the four-storey Flats at the junction of Central Road East and Padungan Road on Saturday, April 13, 1957.

The new Fire Station and Flats — one of the Kuching Municipal Council's latest and biggest projects — are now completed and occupied by the personnel of the Council's Fire Brigade.

The magnificent, multi-coloured buildings, which are the central point of attraction to Kuching residents, are estimated to cost in the region of \$370,000, of which \$100,000 is Central Government's grant.

The new buildings, a complete contrast to the old drab-looking Fire Station at Khoo Hun Yeang Street, add yet another landmark to the

Kuching Municipal Council's housing estate in that area.

They now stand on the once mosquito-infested, or perhaps, crocodile-infested swampy lands.

A considerable amount of piling work has been carried out on the site to enable it to withstand the heavy concrete buildings.

### ALL-IN-ONE

The new Fire Station building, which faces the former Happy World, now houses all the fire-fighting engines and equipment, trailer pumps and vehicles, and the Superintendent's office on the ground-floor; living quarters, which include mese room, kitchen, reading room, bathrooms, and internal modern sanitation, for the unmarried personnel of the Brigade on the first-floor; and the Superintendent's quarters on the top-floor. There is also a

store room at the building. There are very fine balconies overlooking Central Road on each of the first and top-floors of the new Fire Station building.

The Fire Station is equipped with two "Dennis" trailer pumps, two convertible vehicles, and a complete up-to-date fire engine. The fire engine is also equipped with first-aid kits.

### STAFF ACCOMMODATION

The Superintendent's quarters on the top-floor has two bedrooms? one convertible living room, dining hall, kitchen, bathroom and internal sanitation.

There are living accommodations for the sixteen married personnel of the Fire Brigade at the four-storey Rats, adjacent to the fire station. There are four apartments on each storey, and each apartment has two bedrooms, living-dining room, kitchen, bathroom, internal sanitation and a "rubbish chute".

All the married quarters are uniform. There are two stairways on each storey and on each stairway there is an alarm bell controlled by an electric switch which is installed at the Superintendent's office at the station.

The Council also provides the Brigade with furniture for the quarters, spring beds for the unmarried men and kerosene stoves for cooking purposes.

It is hoped that the unmarried men will also be provided with 'lockers' for their personal belongings.

The unmarried men do their own cooking and laundry and they are provided with two kerosene stoves — one for Muslim and the other for Singapore City Council's Fire Station at Hill Street.

There are six races in the Brigade comprising Malays, Sea Dayaks, Land Dayaks, Chinese, Melanau and Indonesians.

One of the old-service firemen who is still with the Brigade is Leading Fireman Juli bin Awang Tengah. He left the Brigade during the Cession, but was the first man to rejoin shortly afterwards. Others who also left rejoined after him.

## THE FORCE

The total strength of the Fire Brigade is 33, made up of one Superintendent, two Foremen, four Leading Firemen and the rest firemen.

The whole Fire Brigade is under the charge of the Kuching Municipal Engineer, Mr. S.A. Barlow.

The Superintendent of the Brigade is 48-year-old Mr. Anthony Harry, a Melanau. Mr. Harry was educated at the St. Joseph's School, Kuching, and on leaving school joined the Health Department as a Sanitary Inspector in 1926. He left the Department in 1939. During his 13 years in the Health Department he had also been transferred to the Medical Department as a Dresser.

After leaving the Medical Department he did his own farming business, but just before the second world war broke out he was called

to join the Marine Department as a Coastal Guard Officer.

After the war he joined the Municipal Department as a Municipal Inspector and in 1952 he filled the vacancy in the Fire Brigade at the old station at Khoo Him Yeang Street. At the end of that year he was sent to Singapore on a six-month fire-fighting course.

## DUTIES

The Brigade is divided into two shifts — a day shift and a night shift—each shift consisting of about 14 men, giving allowance for those on leave or on sick leave.

The normal routine work of the company when not answering any fire call is to do a combined fire-drill, physical drill, double-marching in the mornings on alternate days; kit inspection every Friday; and putting the fire-fighting equipment and engines in tip-top condition.

On Saturdays all the fire-pumps, water-tower tanks, and hydrants are inspected. There is also a break once a week for fire-fighting practices. These practices are essential to train the men to be efficient. Besides practising fire-fighting the men also learn first-aid techniques. Alertness is the watchword of the men and everyman is trained to be so. Even on off-duty hours a man may be called out for duty in case of an emergency.

Each fireman is provided free three sets of dark blue uniforms, two pairs of boots, a forrage-cap, and other necessary equipment.

## RECREATION

The Superintendent hopes to have literature available for the reading room in the bachelor's quarters, which, at the moment, is still bare except for the furniture.

Some firemen attend the Adult Educational night class to improve their education knowledge.

As for the recreation the Brigade has its own football team which is currently competing in the K.F.A. Junior League tournament.

It is hoped that indoor games will be available. Already a business firm has taken the initiative in donating a set of darts.

## FIRE CALLS

The present system of making a fire call is by telephone. There is a fireman on duty every minute at the telephone in the Superintendent's office. Whenever there is a call the fireman on duty will take down the necessary particulars and immediately passes the message to the Superintendent who will then make the alarm for the turn-out. It must be remembered that there are two shifts on duty at the station and the first turn-out will be by those on duty. If necessary, the second turn-out will be called — the second turn-out is made up of those men who are on off-duty.

There will be no difficulty in locating a big fire-outbreak, but in a small fire the caller is usually asked to wait at the place from where he makes the call and then will

direct the Brigade of the location of the outbreak. It must be borne in mind that not every shophouse or premises or residential house is installed with a telephone and the caller usually makes the call from the nearest available telephone. In most cases the caller usually gets excited and nervous when calling for the brigade.

## SERVICE

One very important matter which the Municipal Engineer wants to clarify is the services of the Fire Brigade. Certain sections of the people who are also willing to render their assistance.

The Kuching Fire Brigade not only trains its own men, but also men engaged by the Airport squad and from outstations.

The firemen are now quite well off for the Council has recently introduced a Provident Fund scheme for them.

A familiar sight in by-gone days which has now disappeared is the flushing of the markets by members of the Brigade. This has now been stopped, and obviously for good reasons.



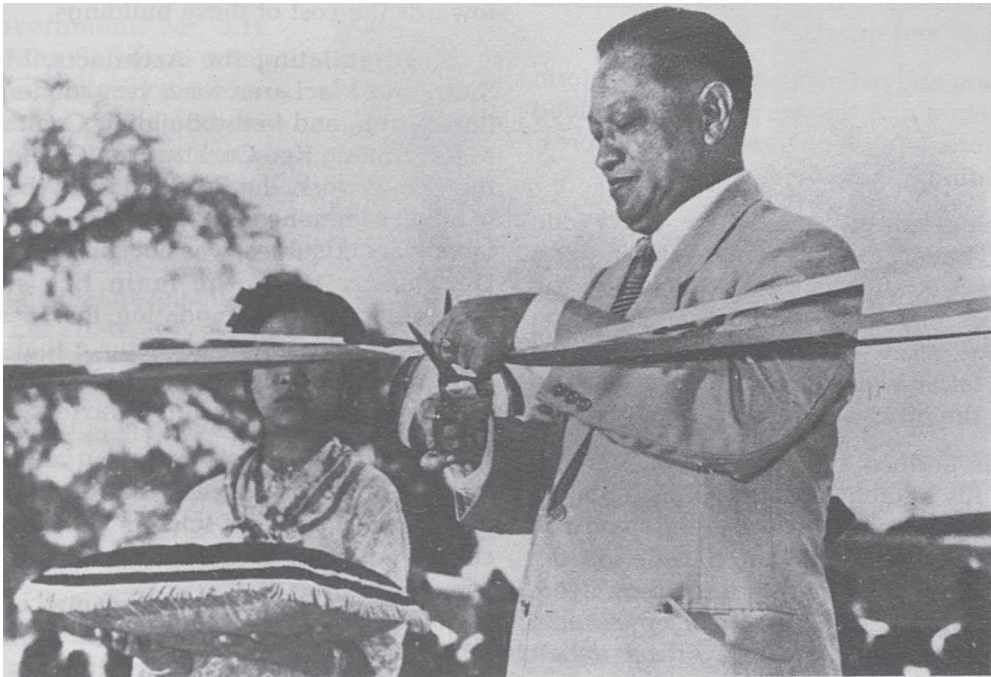
Asked whether the present strength of the Brigade is adequate to meet any emergency, Mr. Barlow says that it is so. Usually when the Fire squad goes to answer a fire-call the Police are also informed, and the Police help in controlling the crowd and help fight the fire as well. There are some public spirited minded public are of the opinion that the services of the fire brigade are chargeable.

"This is not so," Mr. S.A. Barlow emphasises. "The services of the Fire Brigade to the general public are free." No one is liable to any fee when making a genuine call for the Fire Brigade.



# President Opens New Fire Station Another Kuching Showpiece

11/4/1957



*Mr. William Tan, the President cutting the ribbons to declare open the new Kuching Fire Brigade Station.*



*His Excellency seen inspecting a Guard of Honour furnished by the Kuching Fire Brigade accompanied by the President, Mr. William Tan.*

Newest and latest showpiece of Kuching, the new Fire Brigade station at Padungan Road, was last Saturday morning officially opened by the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, in the presence of the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, the Chief Secretary, Mr. J.H. Ellis, Municipal Councillors and guests.

Bunting and pot plants were the only form of decoration and this very simplicity added all the more impression to an already impressive building.

Firemen, spic and span in their navy blue uniform, lined the front of the building and stood erect at attention on the arrival of the Governor. Sir Anthony, accompanied by the President, then inspected this Guard of Honour, after which Mr. Tan proceeded to perform the official opening ceremony.

In his address of welcome Mr. Tan reminded his audience of the old Fire Station which had long outlived its allotted span. You will agree, he added, that considering the difficult conditions under which they lived, the Fire Brigade maintained a remarkable degree of efficiency. They now receive their just reward. As you can see, finishing touches are still required, but we considered it de-

sirable to move the Fire Brigade in as soon as the buildings were unsable.

Mr. Tan revealed that the final cost of the buildings was expected to be in the region of \$370,000, and the Council was indebted to the Central Government for a grant of \$100,000 towards the cost of these buildings.

Congratulating the Architects, Messrs. Swan and MacLaren for a very modern and fine design, and to the Building Contractors, Messrs. Shing Kee Construction Co., Ltd., for their good work, the President said the work of piling commenced in June 1955, and due to technical difficulties, was not completed until December, 1955. the main fire station building has accommodation for 16 single men on the first floor and above that is the Superintendent's flat. The block of flats behind comprises married quarters for 16 families.

Concluding his speech the President was then handed a pair of scissors with which he cut the tape and declared the building open.

Officers of the Fire Brigade acted as hosts and guides to show the guests round the building and the flat. Refreshments were served in the main building.



*The Old Kuching Fire Station along Khoo Hun Yeang Street was demolished during the 50's. Today the hawker's market occupied the site.*

# O A G Pays Tribute To Salvation Army Here New Hall Opens

28/11/1957

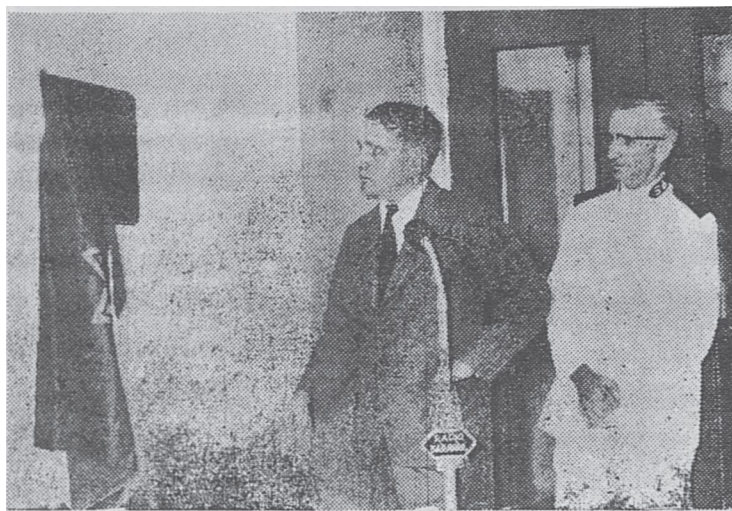
Tributes were paid by the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. J.H. Ellis, to the Salvation Army when he unveiled the commemorative tablet and declared open the new Salvation Army Hall at Sekama Road last Saturday afternoon.

He said that he felt that in being asked to unveil the commemorative tablet and declare the Salvation Army hall in Kuching open he was being asked to participate in an extremely happy occasion.

He added that it was a happy occasion because it seemed to him that the ceremony marked the establishment in Kuching of a body which had done nothing but good since it came here and also it was a sign and pledge that it would remain here and continue its good work here.

Mr. Ellis then touched briefly on the history of the Salvation Army here. He said that the Salvation Army commenced work here only six years ago at a time when the government, conscious of the need for a responsible and dedicated body to manage the Home for the protection of women and girls in Haji Taha Road, entered into negotiations with the Army. This resulted in Major Willis' taking command of the Home in that year.

In the next year the Army instituted a Corps Church in



*The Officer Administering the Government, Mr. J.H. Ellis is seen having unveiling the commemorative tablet at the new Salvation Army Hall at Sekama Road last Saturday afternoon.*

the town and the following year Captain Morgan was appointed to take charge of an Army Corps and started the open air and other meetings which had continued ever since.

He then went to say that here in the new buildings the Army would be able to worship in a more suitable environment and conduct activities among children and elders alike, which would have been impossible if what he might perhaps be allowed to describe as "this fortress of good work" had not been established here.

He added that many people had contributed to make these new buildings possible. Contributions came from friends of the Army in Sarawak, the United States of America, Singapore and elsewhere.

He said he was glad to be able to say that the Govern-

ment in providing the site for the Hall was of some assistance.

Earlier he mentioned that in the Hall Captain Morgan and her assistant would be able to carry on a number of activities in a more suitable environment than had been previously available to her, and he added, he was informed that these activities would include not only meetings of the Life Saving Guard and the Sunbeams, the Junior branches of the Salvation Army, but also women's meeting, instruction in hand works and general meetings for all young people between 13 and 30. These activities would be carried on in a small hall behind the Church and in the Church itself there would be worship and services for all.

Mr. Ellis then declared the Hall open to the honour



and glory of God' and hoped that the words of the Hymn which they sang later 'generations yet to come may worship here,' and unveiled the tablet.

Earlier Mr. Ellis was met at the entrance by Lieut. Col. John W. Blake, Officer Commanding The Salvation Army in Malaya and Sarawak. He said it was indeed a happy occasion as it was the first time that the Army had its own property — a Hall for all people to worship in.

After the opening a dedication service conducted by Lieut. Col. Blake, was held inside the Hall. The service began with a congregation hymn followed by a Prayer of Thanksgiving by Captain Joan Bavin, matron in charge of the Salvation Army Girls Home in Kuching.

Following the Lord's Prayer Senior Captain Tan Eng Soon, Officer in charge

of the Salvation Army boys home in Singapore, read the Scripture in the Amoy dialect. Senior Captain Tan joined the Army since 1937.

Lieut. Col. Blake in an address and prayer of dedication paid tribute to Senior Captain Morgan for her great work here. Lieut. Col. Blake also mentioned Major Willis who is now in England on leave. Messages of greetings were also read.

The service ended with a benediction.

After the dedication service light refreshments were served. Later in the evening a light popular music was rendered in the Hall by members of the Sarawak Constabulary Band.

Services and meetings were conducted for the first time in the new Hall yesterday by Lt. Col. Blake assisted by Senior Capt. Tan Eng Soon.

Tonight at 8 o'clock Sol-

diers and Young people of the Salvation Army will present a Variety Programme at the Hall. It is hoped that as many people will attend.

Sr. Capt. Agnes Morgan thanked all those who had contributed in anyway towards the cost of the new Hall and quarters. She made special mention of Major Willis and Lieut. Fong Pui Chan for their help, Mrs. Kong Yu Siung for her help in the early days in helping in the hand work among the young children, Miss Joyce Buraham for her help, the peoples of Sarawak, the United States of America, the Singapore Salvation Army, and friends in New Zealand and Australia, the Sarawak Oilfields Limited, Sarawak Steamship and the Wee Kheng Chiang Bank for their contributions towards the cost of the new buildings, and Mr. Tcm Hock Seng for the use of his building at Padungan for all these years.

## **Phase One Of Education Programme Fulfilled Another Milestone In Progress Wee Kheng Chiang Opens New St. Thomas's Primary School**

**16/7/1958**

Another milestone in the progress of education in Kuching was marked last Monday by the opening of the St. Thomas's new Primary School building at Reservoir Road by Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang, banker, philanthropist and an Old Thomian, in the presence of a number of distinguished guests, the Board of Governors, old boys, staff and

pupils.

Welcoming the guests on behalf of the Board of Governors of the School, the Bishop's Commissary, the Very Rev. Provost L.R. Wilson, paid tribute to the large numbers of generous subscribers in the persons of old boys, parents, staff, pupils and all friends of the School, in particular, Mr.

Wee Kheng Chiang, for their interest and generosity.

The Provost recalled the day when Bishop MacDougall landed in Kuching and the educational work which he and his wife initiated that resulted in the foundation of the present St. Thomas's and St. Mary's Schools.

## Local authority co-operation

Welcoming the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, the Provost eulogised the spirit of co-operation extended by the Council and which he said, had an important part to play in the education sphere of the future, for on its shoulders lay the responsibility of primary education in Kuching.

He also expressed the gratitude of the Board of Governors to the Government for the provision of a 50% grant towards the cost of the building and a loan at the same time to enable completion of construction work as soon as possible, and paid tribute to Mr. Chong En Hyuk, for his untiring and successful efforts to raise funds.

The Provost then read a letter from the Bishop (now in London attending the Lambeth Conference) in which His Lordship said the completion and opening of St. Thomas's Primary School marked the fulfilment of phase one of the large programme the Mission had undertaken for the improvement of education in Kuching in particular and Sarawak in general.

The letter stressed the importance of primary education which was the basic foundation of secondary education and he hoped that the new Primary School would help towards that better foundation.

The Bishop's letter also acclaimed the lead taken by Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang, an



*Tribune pictures show (top) the Bishop's Commissary, the Very Rev. Provost L.R. Wilson, making his address at the opening of the New Primary School building of St. Thomas; and (below) Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang declaring the new building open.*

old boy of the School, and hope was expressed that others would follow the very fine standard in loyal and generous support of the old school as set by Mr. Wee, so that the Mission might press forward with the next stage to ensure the best possible conditions for the educational progress of 'our sons and daughters'.

"There can surely be no safer and better investment for your money than in providing worthy schools in which your sons and daughters, grandsons and grand-

daughters can receive the best possible education", the Bishop's letter concluded.

### Uplift to future

Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang, after being presented with a Silver Key by Mr. Tham Shing Kee on behalf of the contractors, expressed his gratitude to the School for the education which he had received.

"A hundred years ago St. Thomas's School began in a very humble way and during that century it and given to

the community a large number of men in all walks of life whose influence for good could not be assessed," Mr. Wee said. "Many of these men had responded and risen to the occasion in making possible the building of this Primary School, and I feel greatly privileged to be able to do my part in this worthy project."

Mr. Wee said that the bright and airy building in pleasant surroundings must have an uplifting effect on the school's future. He touched on the fact that at his changing world Sarawak was fortunate that there was still the closest to operation between Government and the Mission in this important field of education.

## **Municipality and Primary Schools**

It was revealed by Mr. William Tan, President of the Kuching Municipal Council in his speech on the occasion, that Government's responsibility over primary schools in Sarawak was gradually being passed on to the Municipal Council and the Local Authorities; and it was the wish of the Kuching Municipal Council to see more primary schools in the Municipality wherever possible to cope with the ever increasing School populations.

Mr. Tan warned that youth of this country should be provided with an arsenal of the right ideology.

"It is our human duty to mould the children of today to be the loyal citizens of tomorrow. In this, St. Thomas's has set a high

example, and we, present here today, are confident that this exemplary load will be maintained?" Mr. Tan Said.

## **Internal structure**

The internal structure of this Primary School was explained by the Principal, the Rev. N.A. Keen who said that the building was designed to house twelve classes, each with a maximum of 40 boys totalling 480.

"At present, there are not 12 classes, but 15. At the end of this year one of these will disappear, remaining 14 classes for next year. These will fit into the new building and the wooden building near McDougall Road, thus making this school virtually separate from the Secondary School. In 1960 another class will disappear, leaving the school with 13 and in 1963 one of the three Primary Twos which the school has now will disappear. Thus in 1963 the school will assume its correct proportion," Fr. Keen said.

The intense pressure of the space of the St. Thomas' Primary School, he added, was little less acute then it had been over two years ago. Due to the recent creation of new primary schools in and near the city and in the country, this pressure would continue to lessen.

Tribute was paid by the Principal to the patience, good will and perseverance of the Primary School Staff who had toiled on, without grumbling in very inadequate conditions.

The quiet but great work in the educational sphere done by the Missions and particularly in the rural areas was stressed by the Acting Director of Education Mr. A.G. Rackham.

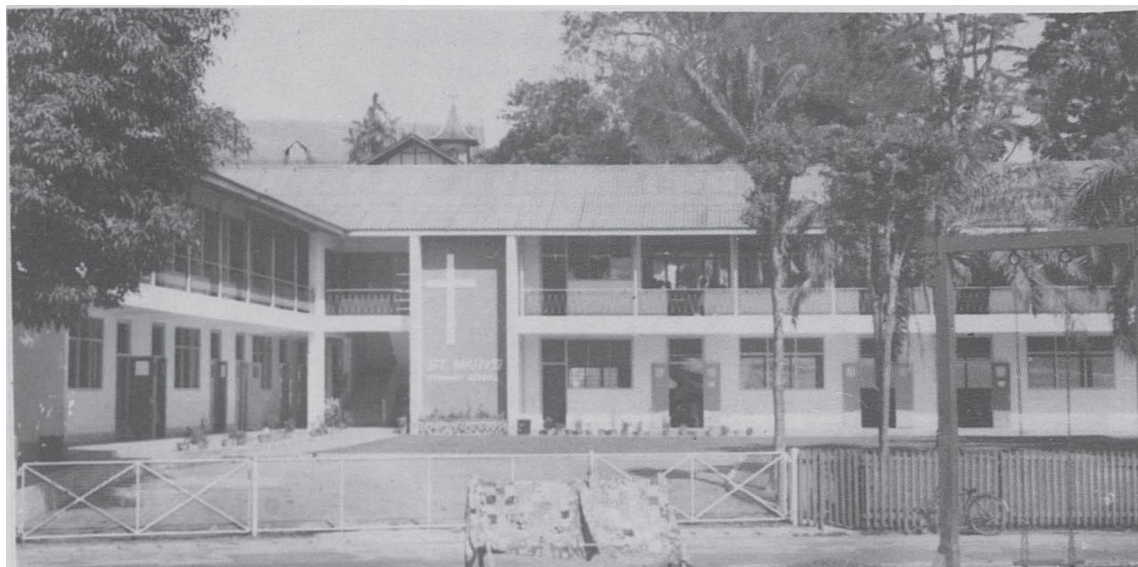
When the building of this new school was first conceived it was merely planning and now with this Primary School standing magnificently and gallantly there the country could safely look forward to a better future generation, said Mr. Rackham.

He hoped that agencies of education would always co-operate with the Education Department to ensure the benefit of the younger generation of this country.

Among the distinguished guests present at the opening ceremony were the Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. A.R. Snelus, and the Financial Secretary Mr. B.A. Hepburn.

Although the building is completed, the Appeal Fund which has been launched is still open.





## **The New St. Mary's Building**

### **Role of Women Stressed St. Mary's School and Achievement Governor Open New St. Mary's Building**

The achievements of St. Mary's School and the contributions which she has made to the country were eulogised by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, when he declared open the new Primary School building last Wednesday afternoon.

Sir Anthony stressed emphasis on the importance of character training as distinct from academic studies in school and underlined the importance of women in the life of a community.

The Governor said that in this aspect he would like to see more women playing a greater role in civic and political affairs, as well as in the public services, one branch of which — the police force, was mentioned.

Sir Anthony also expressed the hope that more scholarships could be distributed among girls of Sarawak who, he added, would be urgently required in community and other developments.

Population development, he added, had come to depend much on women who could preserve the unity of a family — a quality which was so much required in the world of today.

Referring to the valuable work which St. Mary's had contributed to Sarawak, Sir Anthony also paid tribute to the strong and stable foundation laid by Miss E.S. Andrews a

past Principal of the School now retired, and urged that present and future pupils should strive to uphold a reputation now well known over the length and breadth of the country.

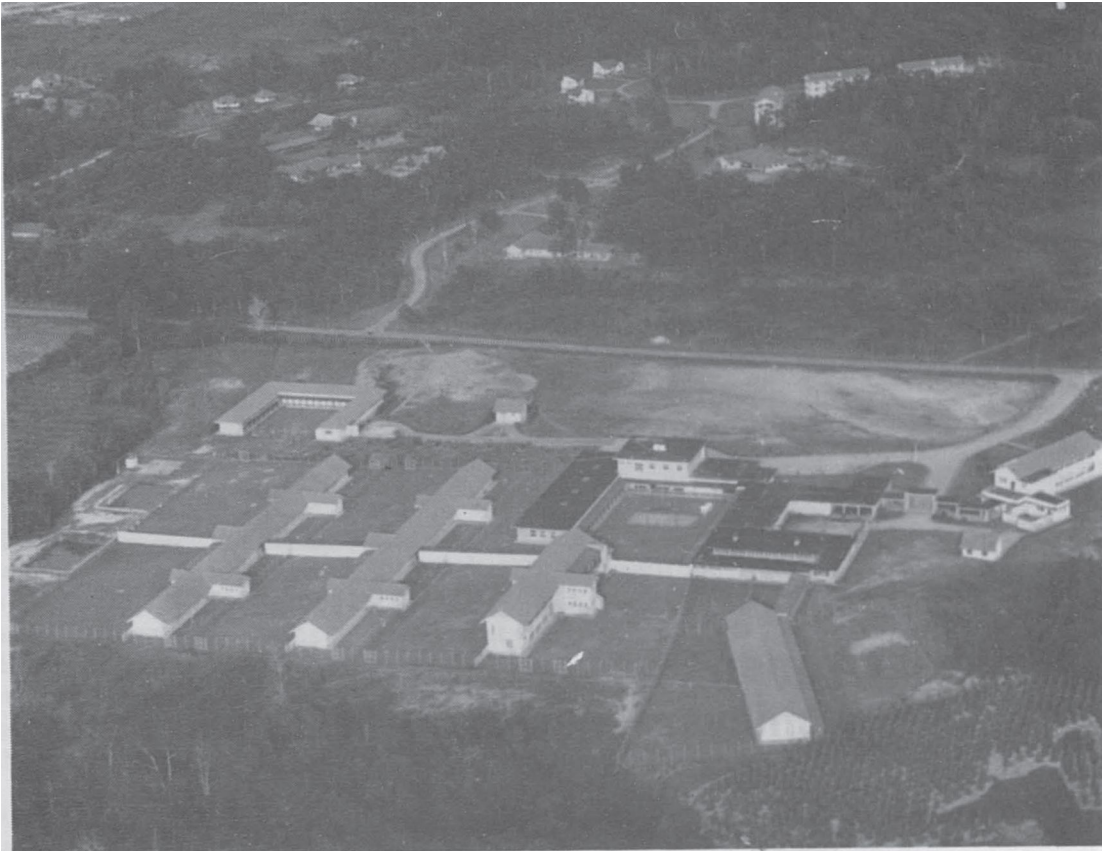
Tribute was also paid by Sir Anthony to the contractors and architects for their accomplishments which were worthy of the educational project to be undertaken within the walls of the premises.

The Governor concluded his address with the jocular remark that in the future when men had made a nonsense out of running the country the fair sex might be called on to take over but, he added that would probably not happen in his time.

Adjoining the old school building the new premises, built at a cost of \$160,000 is a L-shaped two-storey building with the administrative block in the centre.

It has 12 classrooms which can accommodate a total of 480 pupils, staff room, a store, a Headmistress' office and a general school office. It has also new toilet rooms to serve both the Secondary and Primary pupils.

Contractors for the building are Messrs. Tham Shing Kee and M. Joseph, and Architects are Messrs. Swan and Maclaren. The building took more than five months to complete — the contract having been signed on April 8.



*An aerial view of the New Mental Hospital.*

## **New Mental Hospital Opened in 1958**

### **Britain's Generous Contribution**

### **A Monument To Sarawak's Sense Of Social Justice**

The establishment of the most modern mental hospital, which cost %2Vi million, is a worthy monument to the progress of Sarawak and to our sense of social justice.

This was expressed by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell when he declared open the new mental hospital at the 7th Mile, Penrissen Road, last Friday evening.

The project of the building was first considered as early as 1948 when it was thought that it would be a good thing if the three British Borneo territories could have a joint establishment. Unfortunately snags appeared and the difficulties were too great so it had to be dropped and it was until 1953 that the plans of this hospital began to take effect.

For many years, Sir Anthony said, the Government had been conscious of the fact that its facilities for the treatment and care of the mentally sick fell far short of modern standards and did in fact nothing to enhance our reputation as civilized a country. He felt that none would regret the passing of the old mental block in the Kuching General Hospital which was so manifestly inadequate and in which the hard-worked staff toiled with patient devotion, with the barest minimum of material and almost complete lack of amenities.

Though the %2Vi million invested in the construction of the mental hospital could have provided us with more secondary schools,

more dispensaries, a greater mileage of roads or more airfields; in the education of the young or in the economic development of the country, the money (2½ million) was still worth-while spent, for "it, is the child that needs the greatest attention — the most loving care."

## **Special Responsibility**

"I believed as a civilized community we have a very special responsibility for those who have met with misfortune and who are hesitation we chose that Sarawak should take this opportunity of building for itself a really modern hospital in South East Asia, so that the patients coming here today with the modern techniques available can be cured to complete recovery as those who are incapacitated and go to the General Hospital in Kuching. In my view this institution here is a worthy unable to look after themselves. We had to decide if we were to give these unfortunate people the best possible treatment available or do with the second best — give them the best chance of recovery or the second best chance. Without any monument to our progress and to our sense of social justice," he said.

Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom were so much in accord with our views, he added, that they contributed \$1½ million to this establishment here, in fact with their money we had built the whole hospital building and nurses' home, leaving Sarawak to build the isolation block for dangerous cases and the other additional staff quarters. By means of this very generous and friendly gesture of the people of Great Britain we could have this most modern hospital of its kind in this region and one of which we could be very proud, he added.

## **Tribute**

Tribute and appreciation was paid by the Governor to the Director of the Medical and Health Services, the architects and builders of the hospital for their excellent work in connection with the project.

Eulogising the spirit, sense of devotion, sympathy and understanding of Mr. Fred Salt, Superintendent of the Hospital, in deputising his work, Sir Anthony said Mr. Salt had done a great deal for the people who had been committed to his care.

"Mr. Salt," said the Governor, had set his staff, and indeed all of us, a great example of devotion to duty." The Governor hoped that the staff would be happy in their new quarters. He assured them that they were doing an essential and indeed noble job and though it got no publicity there were many who were aware of their grand unobtrusive work." Here in their modern hospital they can practise their profession with greater pride and with greater effect," he stressed.

Earlier, Mr. Glyn Evans, Director of Medical and Health Services, expressed his warm gratitude to all those present at the opening on behalf of all the staff before he requested H.E. the Governor to declare open the hospital.

The new mental hospital, situated at a scenic spot at the 7th Mile was built to contemporary design as a self-contained institution with modem amenities. It has its own operation theatre, laboratory, X-Ray room complete with equipment and dark room for such processes, dispensary, mortuary and a sick or nursing ward. There is, in addition, a canteen for the needs of the visitors to the hospital as for members of the staff who are stationed there.

The Hospital is divided into several wards, each ward catering for its own type of cases. The patients are categorised according to their degree of sickness.





## Governor Calls For More Voluntary Workers Girls' Home Opened

23/1/1959

A call for more voluntary workers to come forward and help in social welfare work was made by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell when he formally opened the new \$260,000 — Sarawak Girls' Home at Up-lands, Ridgeway last Saturday afternoon.

Sir Anthony was received by Major E.C. Willis, the Head of the Salvation Army in Kuching and Dr. W. Glyn Evans, Chairman of the Social Welfare Council.

Dr. Glyn Evans, who introduced the Officer Commanding the Salvation Army in Malaya and Sarawak, and Mrs. Blake who have come over specially for the ceremony, spoke of the work done by the Salvation Army here and the part the Social Welfare Council had played.

Before calling on the Governor to declare the building open, Lt. Col. Blake said that the new Home was the result of people who had vision, and by the translation of it into action the materialisation could now be seen.

He spoke of the well planned vision in that toddler, the child, the youth and the aged could all be catered for in self-contained sections under one central management.

Lt. Col. Blake said that he had travelled the length and breadth of the Federation and Singapore and he could sincerely declare that he did not know of any other Social Home that could equal this modern establishment.

In extending to Government and the Sarawak Social Welfare Council congratulations on this worthy achievement Lt. Col. Blake also paid tribute to Major Willis.

"Her heart's love and the labour of her hands have for the past eight years been given in selfless devotion to all who have come into her care, and I venture to say that some of the inspiration that prompted the building of this Home is the result of the Major's service in the old Haji Taha Road Home," he said.

Here he also made reference to the faithful service rendered to the Major by her Assistant, Lt. Chan Chin Chye.

Before declaring the Home open, Sir Anthony said he welcomed the opportunity of speaking about the Salvation Army which had been carrying out its work against odds in an unobtrusive manner.

Sir Anthony said the people of Kuching were interested in social welfare work; that was evidenced by the large gathering present, but he added that from the list of names of which he could see every year there were always the same people on it.

"There is room for many more", the Governor said, "and I appeal to all of you to help to increase this number".

Sir Anthony said he had been in the Civil Service for thirty years and his first contact with the Salvation Army was in 1929 at a congested Boys' Club in East Africa.

He had never known them to complain; not that there was nothing to complain but that it was just their duty to work in spite of obstacles, on humanitarian grounds.

Sir Anthony said that in highly urbanised towns like Kuching there were some aspects of life hidden from the public eye and most of these were unpleasant too, therefore they were inclined to be ignored. But, not so which the Salvation Army which made a job of going right into the midst of it and bringing the war right into the camp of the enemy.

This was what Major Willis and her team of workers had been doing all these years and would continue to do even more in the new Home that had expanded, he added.

# EXTENSION OF GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

## The Peoples' Thanks

14TH SEPTEMBER, 1956.

An expression of loyal and grateful thanks of the peoples of Sarawak will be conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen for Her Majesty's approval of the extension of the Commission of His Excellency Sir Anthony Abell, as Governor of Sarawak.

This was resolved at the first day session of the Council Negri last Wednesday morning.

The resolution which was moved by Unofficial Member, Mr. Ong Kee Hui was unanimously carried by the Council.

Mr. Ong Kee Hui in moving the resolution said that for some time past it had been the general feeling of the leaders of the different communities in Sarawak that as "we are about to embark on a journey in a new ship in the form of our new constitution we should have at the helm a captain who not only knows the crew and the passengers well but also one in whom they have confidence particularly as the course that lies ahead may be set with storms and difficulties in the political climate of South-East Asia today."

Mr. Ong continued: "During the tenure of office as Governor of Sarawak His Excellency Sir Anthony Foster Abell has won the respect, confidence and I would even say affection of the peoples of this country and this is by no means an easy achievement for a Governor, after 100 years of Brooke rule in this country. It was with regret and increasing uneasiness that we saw the time drawing nearer and nearer when His Excellency would have to leave us in answer to the call of duty to other parts of Her Majesty's realms. During the past few months there was a spontaneous move by many people in different parts of Sarawak to petition to Her Majesty the Queen to extend the Commission of His Excellency Sir Anthony Foster Abell as Governor of Sarawak for another term. At the request of my unofficial colleagues of this Council, who were away from Kuching at that time, I gave a notice of a resolution to be put before this Council to pray for such an extension. The official announcement of 3rd September that Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to extend the Commission of His Excellency Sir

Anthony Foster Abell as Governor of Sarawak till 3rd April, 1959 was therefore received with gratitude and happiness by the inhabitants of Sarawak.

"It may seem to people outside Sarawak perhaps strange and out of keeping with the times particularly in this part of the world that we should want to retain the service of our Governor, but I am sure I am voicing the sentiments not only of this Council but of the peoples of Sarawak when I say that we are indeed grateful that our prayers though undelivered have been granted.

"I therefore beg to move Sir, that this Council resolves that an expression of the loyal and grateful thanks of the peoples of Sarawak be conveyed to Her Majesty's the Queen for Her Majesty's approval of the extension of the Commission of His Excellency Sir Anthony Foster Abell, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George as Governor of Sarawak".

In seconding the motion Mr. A.T. Wedgwood said he would like to associate himself with the remarks made by Mr. Ong Kee Hui.

Mr. Wedgwood said that this country "is about to take another step forward towards its eventual goal of self-government, and there is therefore need of a strong guiding hand at the top."

"We are fortunate indeed," continued Mr. Wedgwood, "in having such a guiding hand in His Excellency, the Governor".

"Sir Anthony during his service in this Colony has travelled far and wide, met the peoples in their own homes, knows what is required for the country at the present time, and is therefore able to direct us along the right and proper channels. It is for that reason, Sir, I believe the peoples of this Colony will welcome the extension of the Commission of His Excellency for a further period, and I have the greatest pleasure in seconding the Resolution before Council", Mr. Wedgwood concluded.

Mr. Khoo Peng Loong also associated himself with the sentiments expressed.

Mr. Khoo said that he had with him a petition dated 26th August, 1956 from the 14 Community Societies of Sibu, Sarikei and Binatang, to Her Majesty the Queen praying for the extension of the term of the Governor for a further period.

He added that this prayer had been anticipated and he assured that the announcement that Her Majesty the Queen had extended the Commission of Sir Anthony Foster Abell, K.C.M.G., as Governor of Sarawak for a period of two years was received with jubilation, and he was very happy that although he had the petition with him, it would no longer be necessary for him to deliver it.

Dr. M. Sockalingam also supported the sentiments expressed.

He added that the most important reason why the extension of His Excellency's term of office "is most desirable is the fact that an entire new set and system of legislative and executive councils, the Municipal Council, the Divisional Councils and District Councils is bound to have teething troubles for the next two or three years".

Dr. Sockalingam continued: "It is only by retaining the services of a man who has not only so much experience in this country, but also an extensive personal knowledge of the country and its people that we are able to diagnose the cause of teething troubles and to give an effective and immediate treatment."

Mr. J.C.H. Barcroft, the Financial Secretary, speaking on behalf of the Official Members on the other side of the House associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by the Unofficial Members.

## **'STAY ON SIR ANTHONY' — PLEA BY COUNCIL**

Council Negri unanimously resolved on Wednesday to send a message to Her Majesty the Queen requesting a further extension of the term of office of Sir Anthony Abell as Governor of Sarawak.

Sir Anthony has indicated his intention to retire at the end of his term of office which is in April next year.

The resolution was moved by Inche Habibullah bin Majid (Fifth Division Advisory Council) and seconded by Temenggong Jugah (Third Division Advisory Council and Paramount Chief of the Sea Dayaks). Mr. William Tan (Nominated Member and President of the Kuching Municipal Council), Mr. Umpi Rantai (Second Division Advisory Council) and Mr. D.C. White, Resident of the Third Division (on behalf of the Official Members) spoke in support of the move.

### **'Has confidence of people'**

In his speech Inche Habibullah recalled a similar resolution passed by the Council in September, 1956, when, he said, glowing tributes were paid to Sir Anthony from both sides of the House.

He added: "I am a comparatively new Member from the most remote part of Sarawak, and, I often think, a forgotten part of the country. I am not a gifted orator but I sincerely believe that what was said of Sir Anthony in 1956 applies with equal force today.

"In his years of service in Sarawak, Sir Anthony has gained the confidence and affection of the people. Indeed, there are few men in Sarawak today who know the people and the country as well as him."

### **'Steady hand required to guide us'**

"The new Constitution has been in force for but a year and now we are thinking of further advancement and may be further changes. I am sure we all feel that at a time like this an old, sure and steady hand is required to hold the helm of the ship of state to guide us safely through the sea of troubles in the world around us today".

Inche Habibullah then moved that the following message be conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen: "That this Council would



welcome and believe that the people of Sarawak would welcome a further extension to the commission of His Excellency Sir Anthony Foster Abell, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, as Governor of Sarawak."

Temenggong Jugah said that during Sir Anthony's tenure of office the people had lived in peace and harmony.

"This is due," he declared, "to his intimate knowledge and deep understanding of Sarawak and its people — from the highest to the humblest citizen, from the nearest to the most remote part of the country."

He hoped the Queen would "see fit to grant us our dearest wish so that we may continue to prosper under the wise and able guidance of our present Governor."

Mr. Tan said that at a time "when we are still working under what is still to us a New Constitution and in view of the fact that we are about to consider the very important issue of closer association of the Borneo Territories, it is highly important that we should have someone here who knows the country well and has the full confidence of the people, to lead and guide us."

He added: "It may be unusual for a Governor to serve for so many terms in one territory, but in the interest of Sarawak and its people, we hope Her Majesty the Queen will favour-; ably consider our plea."

Said Mr. Umpi Rantai: "After long years of distinguished service not only in Sarawak but elsewhere Sir Anthony must naturally be looking forward to a well-earned retirement.

"I feel, however, that it is our duty to the people of Sarawak to retain the service of one so understanding of our way of life and so devoted to the service of our people and our country.

"We must try to convince not only Her Majesty's Government but also persuade Sir Anthony himself that our need for his continued service is ever greater today than it was two years ago."

## GOVERNOR'S TERM EXTENDED

It was announced in Kuching on Thursday that Her Majesty the Queen has approved the extension of the term of Sir Anthony Foster Abell, K.C.M.G. as Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Sarawak, for a further period of about six months until October 1959.

The new Chief Secretary of Sarawak, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, C.M.G., O.B.E., will arrive in

Kuching towards the end of April next, it was also announced this week.

Mr. Jakeway recently returned to the United Kingdom from British Guiana after completing a full tour of duty as Chief Secretary, to take his leave before assuming his new appointment.

# **Tribute Paid To Governor**

## **Record Crowd At S'ggang Airport To Say Goodbye**

October 17, 1959

A record crowd turned up at Simanggang Airport yesterday to say farewell to the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell who this week paid a two-day visit here.

Sir Anthony, who before his departure inspected a Guard of Honour mounted by the Sarawak Constabulary and Boy Scouts, entered the Twin Pioneer aircraft to the cheers of the school children who waved Union Jacks. With them were detachments of the Red Cross, residents of the Bazaar, community leaders and Government officials.

### **tribute paid**

Tribute was paid to the Governor by Datu Abang Haji Zen at a multi-racial dinner given the night before at the Simanggang Recreation Club.

The Datu spoke of the progress made in the Second Division in the last ten years during the Governorship of Sir Anthony. He mentioned in particular the development in education and the rapid progress of agriculture and the construction of roads which had spurred on the development of the Division.

Datu Abang Haji Zen paid tribute to the personal interest which Sir Anthony had given to Simanggang and to his wise guidance that had made Simanggang what it was today.

### **visit**

Yesterday morning, the Governor, accompanied by the Medical Officer-in-Charge, Dr. Melville and Mrs. Melville and the Divisional Engineer, Mr. R.J. Thomas, inspected the newly completed Simanggang Hospital which he found most impressive.

A visit was also made to the Simanggang end of the Serian-Simanggang Road, and in the company of the Engineer-in-charge, Mr. R.B. Beattie the Governor drove four miles along this new road. He also inspected the site of the new Government Secondary School — a lovely site on a hillock at the back of the Residency.

Before leaving Simanggang, the Governor had lunch at the Residency with the Resident, Mr. M.J. Froster and the District Officer, Mr.

T. Einsworth. One of the guests at luncheon was Mr. David Brown, a student volunteer working in Simanggang.

### **arches**

Outstanding feature of the welcome were two arches erected by the Foochow community and the Chung Hua School. In addition to many coloured decorations the arches had on them scrolls in verses extolling the work of the Governor.

Here are extracts of some of these verses on the Foochow community Arch:

"H.E. has headed this colony promoting development projects and propagating democracy. His mind is as gentle as the breeze and clear as the moon and the results of his virtuous career can be seen everywhere."

"We feel sorry for his departure this day. We sing a song of farewell and say goodbye to him having been deeply impressed with his association with us as a good teacher and beneficial friend. Being the model of politicians H.E. has planted virtue in the people."

"His meritorious deed has become known thousands of miles away. Having repaired the damages (aftermath of war) had laid down firmly the foundation of a nation, his policies have been carried out most successfully and all races are enjoying peace, harmony and prosperity."

From the Chung Hua School Arch: "In H.E.'s capacity as Governor in these nine years political accomplishments can be seen clearly everywhere. During these nine years of office, heading the Sarawak Government, there has always been peace in the colony as a result of this able administration. Being sympathetic and considerate the people have a great affection for H.E., and all concerned will feel regret at his impending departure."

### **Holiday**

The last thing which Sir Anthony did before getting into the aircraft was to speak to a senior school boy and asked him whether he liked to have a holiday, to which the boy eagerly replied in the affirmative.

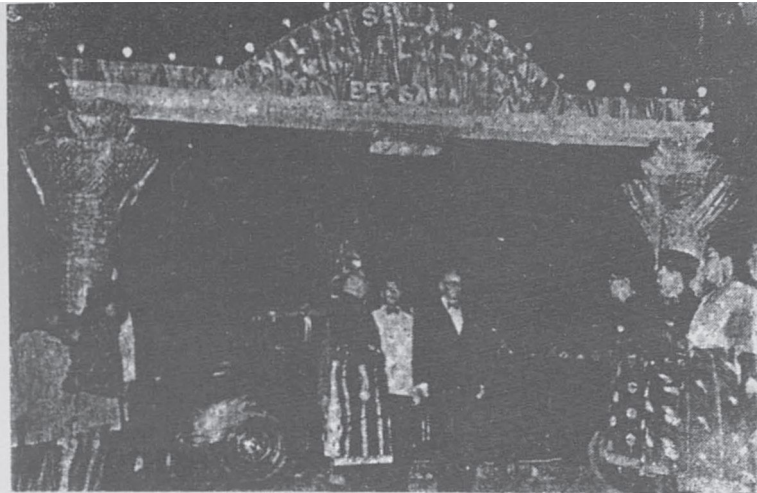
A holiday was then and there declared.

# 'Unity essential to progress' again stressed

## Role Of The Malays

October 19, 1959

### Governor's Tribute To Constant And Devoted Service



*The Governor, accompanied by the Private Secretary, arriving at the decorated arch leading to the residence of the Dato Abang Haji Openg, for the all-Malay community farewell dinner.*

Sir Anthony was speaking at a farewell dinner given in his honour by the Malay community at the residence of Dato Abang Haji Openg, President of the Majlis Islam, last night.

The Governor, speaking in Malay, commented on the ten very happy years in his life spent in Sarawak, and he was most grateful to his hosts and to all the people in Sarawak who had given him their friendship, loyalty and co-operation, and had made thereby his time here so enjoyable and had made possible what progress achieved.

#### Sadness

"I came here at a time of sadness when the country was divided by political controversy," Sir Anthony went on: "I hope at least that some of those wounds have healed and that you the Malays feel

that the present Government will watch over your interests and assist you to develop in others the deep devotion you have always shown for your country."

"I hope during these years we have always been able to convince you that our policy is right of treating alike all races, religions and peoples who have inherited or have an undeniable right to regard themselves as citizens of this country.

"Of one thing I am sure, we can make no progress without unity, all the very considerable material and political progress we have made in the last ten years would taste bitter in my mouth if I thought that the Government I led had not done all in its power to nourish and protect the spirit of friendliness and concord between the various peoples of this country which has

been a feature of our history.  
**Conflict**

"The conflict of interests, the competition for jobs, for trade, for power will inevitably increase and will inevitably strain race relations. If, therefore, we are to safeguard our traditions, our unity, our recall harmony we will require the watchful and understanding eye of an impartial Government and the unremitting assistance of all people of good will.

"You Malays must strive for equality of opportunity whether it is in education, or in agriculture or in commerce, so that you can have no reason to blame others for any failure you may have. You must not allow yourselves to be left behind, a prosperous, virile, enterprising Malay community is vital to our progress and to our unity."

Sir Anthony said one day Sarawak without any doubt whatever, would become self-governing. That was a promise made by the Rajahs and repeated by the Queen.

#### Education process

The process of education towards that end was continuing daily and the new Governor would carry on where he had left off. He would respect the *adat lama* of the Malays and the traditions of this country and, Sir Anthony said, he knew that the new Governor



would receive from the people the same loyalty and assistance they had given to him.

"Let us therefore look forward with confidence to the future, striving for the things that must come first — more and better education, improved standards of living for all, more modern techniques of agriculture so that the cause of jealousy and the seeds of discord can be removed while the Queen and Her Representative in Sarawak still watch over our destiny and can influence its course", Sir Anthony said.

The Governor also expressed pleasure in being given this opportunity to speak to the Malays.

### Special reasons

"I have special reasons for being grateful to the Malays of Sarawak," he continued, "not only through the friendships I have made among you all but because in the Astana and on the 'Zahora', when I am at home and when I travel the country I have been looked after by Malays I have therefore seen more of them than anyone else. You cannot live together under the same roof for ten years without getting to know each other pretty well. I have increasingly admired the national character of the Malays which has emerged. Their high sense of duty, their deep loyalty, their absolute honesty and lack of arrogance — all these are qualities which the future will require not only of the Malays but of others too. No one can ever have better served by his staff than I have. Their cheerful accep-

tance of me and my ways have made my life easy and pleasant. I have never before nor will again receive such constant and devoted service."

### A parting gift

More than one hundred guests attended the dinner. They included Malay councillors and village headmen from the Lower Sadong District, a number of prominent Malay residents of the Bau District, Heads of Government Departments in Kuching and various community leaders.

A gift of a Malay national dress was then presented to Sir Anthony, and later there was a display of Malay dances, ronggeng and pencha silat, followed by the sapin produced by ten village headmen.

Earlier a welcome address was made on behalf of the Malay community by the Datu Bandar, Abang Haji Mustapha who assured Sir Anthony that his presence at the party furnished

one of the many unshakable proofs of his generous disposition — exceedingly amiable, dependable, patient and upright.

### Virtues

These were virtues which had won for him the heart of the people who had grown to regard him as their friend 'in need' and their beloved father, and the Datu Bandar quoted examples of Sir Anthony's concern in the welfare of his community.

The Datu said that under Sir Anthony's wise guidance the people had enjoyed peace and harmony, had reaped the fruits of the country's development and had marched and continued to march forward steadily and assuredly. All these were attributable to the strenuous labour of a Governor, the leader of Sarawak who is upright, patient, gentle and who has the determination to see that proposals for the betterment of the people were carried through without waste of time.



*The Governor is seen Malay tradition dress by Tribune photographer from the Datu Abang receiving a gift of a Haji Openg.*

## Rare legacy

Again describing the Governor as an enlightened Governor, Datu Bandar said: "The peace that prevails in our country, when turmoil and bloodshed and conflicts of ideology reign almost every country around us, is a treasure we are indeed proud of. It is a legacy which

is rare in our time. This again is due to the able leadership of a leader who perseveres and carries out his task conscientiously for the guidance of all the people and so as to stem out undesirable elements. Your Excellency has frequently given us honest and frank advice. This has awakened those who have fallen into a slumber and this

spurred them to strive for progress".

Continuing, the Datu Bandar listed some of the major fruits of the Governor's untiring efforts in developing the country for the benefit of all — public services, education, economic improvement and the raising of the living standard of the people.

# Governor UniqueSibu's Tribute To Action In Unity

October 22, 1959

Sibu, Wed: — Tribute to the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, was paid by the Sibu community of all races at a farewell dinner given in the Sibu Recreation Club, last night.

It was an occasion which brought out prominently the harmony with which all communities worked together, and this unique action in unity covered no less than 32 members representing and official representatives of almost all the associations, clubs, public bodies, unions and youth organisations in the Third Division that formed the Organising Committee.

In his address at the dinner, Mr. Peter Jong Kuet Siong, the Chairman of the Organising Committee said that Sir Anthony would go down in Sarawak history as the unofficial 4th Rajah of Sarawak.

## Friend To All

"He is the Governor who holds a record of service which is unique having been with us since the early days

of political unrest," Mr. Jong said.

"He is the most widely-travelled administrative officer and there is no place in Sarawak which has not visited. He has been a wise and benevolent Governor and a friend to all irrespective of their race, creed, rank or social standing.

"True to the old tradition of the Rajahs of Sarawak, he

has been freely accessible to anyone at any time. During his term of office for the last nine years, he has been instrumental in securing peace and prosperity in this country through his far-sighted policy and wise administration. He saw difficult times when he first took over the helm of Government. I am sure he will now retire with the satisfaction in his heart that he has steered



*GSIS picture shows Sir Anthony (second right) with Mr. Peter Jong on his right, Datu Tuanku Bujang on his left and Mr. R.T.M. Henry (standing left) at the function.*

the Ship of State through waters very dangerous at times to a peaceful and well-sheltered harbour. No person could have done better than our Governor, and his retirement will be a great loss to the people and the country as a whole."

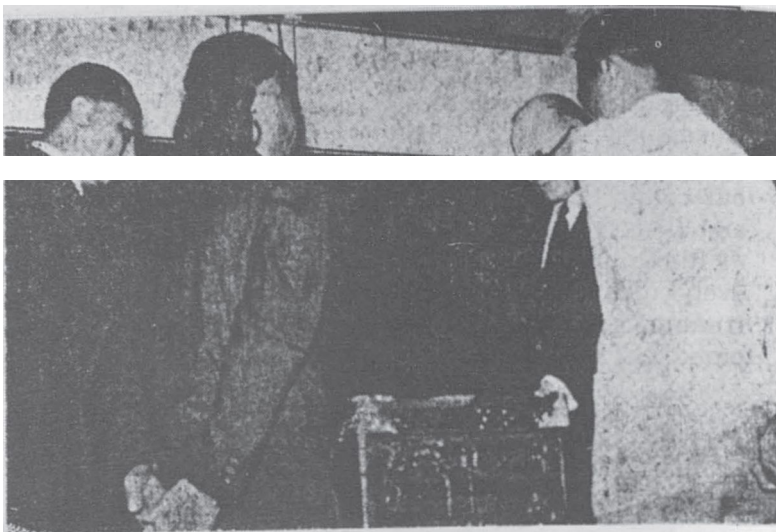
## Personal Popularity

Mr. Jong said the success of the night's function was due not so much to the careful planning of the Organising Committee, but to the great personal popularity of the Governor. It was amazing, he added, how whenever his name was mentioned to persons approached for free service or financial assistance the response was immediate.

"That all the communities are willing to work together harmoniously on so large a scale is proof that we have now learned to regard each other as members of one big family, with one undivided loyalty to Sarawak, irrespective of the country of our origin", Mr. Jong said.

Datu Tuanku Bujang who holds the record of being the longest serving member in the Government service, then made a presentation of a wooden chest to Sir Anthony. This chest has been specially designed and was made in Hong Kong with Sarawak timber.

Sir Anthony, in reply, thanked the chairman and the organising committee for arranging the party for him and for the all-community gift of a beautifully carved chest.



*GSIS picture shows the Governor receiving the chest from four community leaders (from left) Mr. Ting Lik Hung, Temenggong Jugah, and Abang Louis Baring. Abang Haji Abdul Rahman cannot be seen in the picture.*

He said the chest would serve as a reminder to him of their friendship which he had enjoyed.

The Governor said he was pleased to see all communities getting together to give him such a warm farewell. He hoped the people would continue to work together as their forefathers in the past had done.

He said he would treasure the chest.

The communities of all districts of the Third Division presented a beautifully carved chest at a Farewell party for Sir Anthony Abell

at the King George VI Memorial Ground last Tuesday night.

The chest is carved in Hongkong from Sarawak's own timber — rengas. The lid of the chest is carved with a model of the Astana, and on each of the two sides is carved the Union Jack and Sarawak Flag. The front side of the chest is carved with a map of Sarawak with the Third Division shaded. The chest is inlaid with camphor wood.

On the gold plated latch is inscribed the following words "Farewell Gift by all communities in the Third Division."



# Sir Anthony Warns New Political Leaders: Good Race Unity Must Be Maintained

## K.M.C. Farewells Governor At Civic Dinner

The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell has warned the new political leaders that it is alright for them to strive for a more efficient, a more representative and a more stable government, so long as they do not jeopardise Sarawak's progress and disrupt the good race relations.

Sir Anthony was speaking at a civic farewell dinner given by the Kuching Municipal Council at the Jubilee Hall, Padungan Road, last night.

Opening his address the Governor said he could not pretend that this was a very jolly occasion for him. In spite of the excellent dinner, the warm hospitality and the beautiful gift which was given to him, it was not much fun saying goodbye to friends and leaving a country where one had been happier than anywhere else in the world.

### Happy memories

He said he would take away with him many happy memories of the generosity and kindness of the people of this country, rather blurred memories of the gay evenings in longhouses, the colour and open-hearted hospitality of Hari Raya, many a Chinese new year when the champagne flowed, as it never would again for him, like water before they put the rates up.



*Tribune pictures shows Sir Anthony (left) receiving a parting gifts from the president of the Kuching Municipal Council at the Civic Dinner at the Jubilee Hall last Saturday evening.*

He said all of them had experienced the same sort of thing and they all inclined to take it for granted until they had to go elsewhere and leave the shores of Borneo.

Sir Anthony said it was very nearly ten years ago that he was appointed to the governorship of Sarawak and was asked to submit himself to the Colonial Office doctor. He said after a cursory glance the doctor asked him: "Is your digestion alright?" He said he replied "so far it had proved adequate in normal circumstances". To which he replied, "You will find that circumstances are not normal in Sarawak. What you will require is a cate iron constitution, an abestos sto-

mach lining and hollow legs".

### Clear eyes

"I think after ten years he was quite right," the Governor said. But, he added, I would say now that the new Governor would require very clear eyes which were not always easy to achieve in Sarawak, and a good deal younger eyes to see into the future.

"I came here at a time of importance to Sarawak. This country was recovering from the Japanese occupation but there was a good deal of political dissension and the people had to decide what to do about it. Were they going to buckle down to the job of

recovery for this country? Were they going to allow bitterness to rule? And in their typical Sarawak way they came to their decision quietly but with determination with the results which we see around us today," Sir Anthony said.

He said he was leaving at a time when, and might be, he believed, another turning point in Sarawak's history.

## **Decision must be made**

"The same sort of decision has to be made and it can only be made honestly and fearlessly by the people of this country. There are many good and sincere people who feel that we are not going fast enough and that an acceleration in the educational process towards self-government is due, and they are forming associa-

tions to give strength to their views.

"That is quite right and proper. This is a natural and healthy development which no one can or would deny, but the pace at which we proceed in these matters is one of concern not only to us in Kuching who are relatively educated, but also to every citizen throughout the length of the country.

# **Governor's Message To Political Leaders**

## **Party Politics**

"Party politics have taken a hold in certain places, and once they get started the past has shown that they usually come to stay."

He said now the people of this country had a decision to make and he felt that they should make it clear for a start to the new political leaders that 'it is alright for them to strive for a more efficient, a more representative and a more stable government; if they can achieve that with party politics that is excellent That is what we all want. The people of Sarawak are not going to allow a breach of the old friendly traditions of this country. This country has gone a long way in the last hundred years; it has worked out itself a way of life which it has found to be satisfactory and the envy of others.

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

## **Adat Lama**

He said he remembered when he came here and wherever he travelled the people wanted to know if he would follow 'the adat lama', the traditions of this country. He said he would do so and he believed that he had done his best to do so. He said he did not think it was too much to ask now that the people of this country should also follow their own traditions, the traditions of kindness and friendliness.

Sir Anthony said he had been reported to be against politics and politicians. That was not so, he said. He said he was not a politician and never would be, but he understood their ambitions and respect most of their motives.

He said that they had a part to play in this country and he thought they had come to stay.

He said: "I only ask in Sarawak that they should not for the sake of personal ambitions undermine or destroy the character of a country we all love and try to serve."

## **Not Easy**

He said he knew that it was not easy to find a quick and satisfactory solution to these problems; other countries had had to face the same sort of dilemma and had on occasion reached the wrong solution by taking it in due haste, and by allowing the issue to be fogged by the ambitions of individuals, and, who took a natural wish to demonstrate to the world their own political sophistication.

He said he had confidence that Sarawak in its own good time would find the solution to these problems as it would to other difficult problems she had to face because, he said, he believed the people here had two very great assets.

"Firstly, there is our such talked-of happy race relations. This is a fact, in spite of the over-emphasis it is placed on it from travellers from neighbouring countries where it is absent.

"Some of our neighbours have, I believe, lost this asset and are trying hard, rather late

in the day, to get it back because they know, and we must remember that, if you are born in a plural society as we are, there is no alternative except disintegration or domination by one race."

He said this vital asset was rather precariously poised on foundations which were showing the unmistakable signs wear and tear. "It is up to us to realise that fact and each one of us to do what we can to repair those foundations before the whole structure totters and falls to our heels," he said.

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

Sir Anthony said it was his greatest desire and the Government's most urgent task to foster the best possible race relations in the country and to preserve and strengthen racial unity because without them this country could not prosper, and he knew his and government's mission would have failed.

## **Second great asset**

"Our second great asset to my mind is this: there is a sound commonsense in the people of this country which refuses to allow them to be bamboozled by the Government or by any other disturbing innovator without a very careful scrutiny of their credentials and intentions. I believe that the people of Sarawak want to go forward as much as anybody else but they are a bit conservative and cagey and want to see their way clearly and they want to know where they are being led," he said.

The Governor said these two assets were vital to Sarawak's future and would stand the people in good stead if they sustained them today. He said Sarawak had made considerable progress since the war because of the determination and hardwork of the people of this country and because they had on the whole received a good return for their industry and because they had had a stable government.

## **Stable government**

He said: "You in Sarawak will have a stable government as long as you allow these two assets to rule events: good race relations

and sound commonsense which are expressed in terms of national and civil responsibility."

Addressing his hosts he said they had clearly shown during their term of office the application and the practice of these assets to the business of local government.

"You have worked as a team under your able and wise President. You can be proud of your achievements and the services you have given to the people of Kuching, you can be proudest of all of the example you have shown to the people of Sarawak in your soundest judgement's and in fairness of your decisions which are unsullied by any taint of partisanship."

He said the Municipal elections drew near and he hoped everyone, the electors and candidates, would conduct themselves as they did on the list occasion with their traditional dignity and sense of fair play.

He said he hoped the public of Kuching would show their good sense that they did in 1956 and give this city a ruling body of upright and devoted citizens who would do credit to the capital of a country which "is a pleasant and as promising a land as any I have seen."

Earlier, the President of the Kuching Municipal Council, Mr. William Tan, speaking on the occasion said during the nine years that Sir Anthony had been the Queen's representative in Sarawak he had exerted himself unsparingly in travelling the country and making personal contact with the people.

Mr. Tan said: "Despite your onerous duties you have nevertheless found time to show a close interest in the affairs of this Council. In December 1956 you addressed us at the first ordinary meeting of the then newly established fully elected Council and we have ever since benefited from your encouragement."

He said the Kuching Municipal Councillors were also nearing the end of their term of office, and on November 15 — the day after the Governor leaves Sarawak — the electors of Kuching would go to the polls to "pass their verdict" on the Councillors.

## **Steady progress**

"This is no place for election speeches," Mr. Tan added, "but I think I may say that



during our period of office this Council has made steady progress and has done its best to further the well-being of the citizens of Kuching.

"This town is growing steadily, and in keeping up with the rate of progress presents, and will continue to present, many problems. However, we can justly say that the Municipality of Kuching, capital of Sarawak, is no disgrace to the country.

' Though we are so happy to have you with us tonight, it is a pleasure tinged with sadness at the thought that you will be leaving us in two weeks' time.

### **Good wishes**

' No one will deny that you deserve a rest after nine years of unsparing service to Sarawak, and we wish you many years of health and leisure to do the things for which you have not

previously had time. You leave us not only as a respected Governor, but is a well loved friend."

Mr. Tan later, on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Kuching, presented to Sir Anthony a parting gift in the form of a cigar box, made from a Sarawak timber 'Nyireh' and embossed with the Coat of Arms of the Municipality as a pleasant reminder of his stay in Sarawak.

The dinner was attended by more than one hundred people including the wives of councillors and guests.

Earlier the Loyal Toast was proposed by Mr. William Tan before making his address.

The Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Stephen Kuet Tze Yong proposed the toast to the Governor who later proposed the toast to the K.M.C.

# Governor Opens New Chinese School

## 'Chinese schools have full part to play in Sarawak'

### Don't Be Allowed To Become Object of Suspicion By Other Peoples: Sir Anthony

November 3, 1959

A warning that there is always a danger that non-Chinese peoples may distrust the independent status of Chinese schools in Sarawak, and suspect that the continuation of this school system will tend to keep the Chinese apart from the other peoples of Sarawak, was made by the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Foster Abell.

Sir Anthony advised that the Chinese schools must play their full part in the life of the Sarawak community, but they must not be allowed to become an object of suspicion by other peoples.

The Governor was speaking at the formal opening of the Chung Hua Middle School No. 1 at Pending Road last Saturday afternoon.

Earlier in his address, Sir Anthony said he was happy that one of his official duties was to take part in the opening of "the most important Chinese educational institution in Sarawak."

### Tribute

The fine building, he said, was a tribute to the enthusiasm and devotion of the Chinese community to the cause of education.

"If there is one thing about the Chinese community which must impress one more than anything else it is their enthusiasm in all matters pertaining to education," Sir Anthony said.

He said the Chinese of Sarawak had a tremendous heritage to preserve in the Chinese language and culture which had been built up over, not just several centuries, but several milleniums.

### Oldest living language

"The Chinese language is by far the oldest living language today and through its medium mankind has been enriched by a great wealth of literature, poetry and the arts."



*Tribune picture shows Sir Anthony unveiling the plaque on the wall of the stage at the hall of the Chung Hua Middle School No. 1, Pending Road, at the formal opening of the school last Saturday afternoon.*

Sir Anthony congratulate members of the Chinese community on their organised effort in building the fine school and said Government had been able to contribute the sum of \$250,000 towards the capital cost and to contribute annually a further \$110,000 which with the fees covered the entire annual recurrent expenditure.

He said Chinese education was going through a difficult and challenging phase throughout South East Asia.

## **Danger**

Sir Anthony said since Chinese schools in Sarawak catered almost entirely for members of the Chinese community, there was always a danger that non-Chinese peoples might distrust their independent status and suspect that the continuation of this school system which had grown up slowly over the years would tend to keep the Chinese apart from the other peoples of Sarawak.

He said: "This is a fear the existence of which has to be recognised and thought about. The Chinese Schools must play their full part in the life of the Sarawak community, but they must not be allowed to become an object of suspicion by other peoples."

## **Steps to take**

"What then are the main steps you must take to calm these fears? I think there is an overwhelming need to ensure that the Chinese schools play their full part in the community. They are and should be repositories of Chinese culture but they must be sensitive to their local environment. There is always a danger that patterns of education may become frozen.

"A really live and vital educational system must be capable of change and development to suit altered circumstances. The main difficulty is, I think, that Sarawak people of all races including the Chinese are by nature conservative. Change comes slowly and it is liable to be resisted merely because it is change. And in the case of the Chinese schools, members of the community may fear that change implies an attack on Chinese culture.

## **Chinese culture**

"But what, ladies and gentlemen, is Chinese culture consist of? It is surely the possession of a remarkable language and a wonderful literature and a unique and highly developed system of art."

"This culture is something strong and vigorous and quite capable of standing on its own feet. No one in Sarawak wants to deprive the Chinese of their cultural heritage and we would all be the losers and I think that members of all communities are only too happy to see it exist in a strong and vigorous form."

## **Need**

At the same time, he said, it was necessary to recognise the need of the Chinese to form a part of the multi-racial Sarawak community. Very largely because they dealt exclusively for Chinese pupils and concentrated so very largely on the Chinese language, Chinese schools were sometimes the object an anxiety on the part of other communities.

He said this tendency was not confine to Sarawak. It could be seen all over Southeast Asia, in Vietnam and Siam, in Malaya and Indonesia, and everywhere.

The wise thing was surely to recognised this tendency and to take steps in advance calculated to reduce suspicion and to bring the Chinese more closely together in the multi-racial Sarawak society.

He said if this was to be done effectively it was essential that the Chinese should be able to communicate freely with members of other communities.

It was essential, he said, that every Chinese boy and girl in this country should be able to speak either Malay or Dayak fluently and it was desirable if they were to make any success in the world that they should have a good knowledge of English as well.

## **Common language essential**

"A common language is essential to Sarawak if we are to achieve real unity," he said.

Sir Anthony recommended the school children to pay in the school increased attention to languages which would in fact enhance and strengthen the position of the Chinese community.

Local languages would help the children in their own understanding of other peoples of Sarawak and the possession of English would open to them not only new fields of employment but give them access to the most important world-wide language for modern research and cultural and business development.

## **'Do Not Be Misled'**

"Do not, I beg of you, be misled by persons who oppose the improved understanding of other languages because they fear that this



must weaken the position of Chinese as a language," Sir Anthony said.

He said he was convinced not only that Chinese culture was capable of holding its own, but that their children possess ample reserves of intelligence to enable them to be multi-lingual.

It was achieved in a number of countries and he knew there were many people in his audience who were fluent in three languages, and that some of them knew even more, he said.

It could be done but he said: "Do not, through excess of conservatism, fear to make the attempt."

Sir Anthony said he was disappointed to learn that efforts made by the Board of Management to improve and expand the teaching of English in the Kuching Chinese Secondary Schools were abandoned because of a certain amount of local opposition.

He said: "I think this is a mistake. In the long run you are handicapping your own children by refusing to countenance change of this sort."

## **'Mix Freely'**

Speaking of another means of bringing Chinese children into closer contact with the children of other communities in Sarawak, he said, even if it was not possible, as it was in many cases, to fit children of other communities into the Chinese schools system, there was no reason why they should not be able to play games together.

He said he would like to see a great expansion of the games playing facilities in Sarawak and he would like to see far more contact between the various schools.

This might mean certain changes in emphasis because Chinese children were particularly keen in basketball while the Malays and Dayaks were keener in football. But there was room for far more contact than at present and he hoped that they would do everything possible to help through their own generosity in providing more playing fields, he said.

## **Congratulations**

He said there had been an improvement of late particularly in athletics. He congratulated the principal, the Board of Management and Mr. Tan Kui Choon for their success in this matter. He said he was sorry that the examinations clashed with the programme of athletics this year depriving Sarawak of some of her best lady athletes.

"Personally", he said, "I think it is possible to work for an examination and remain in training."

He also hoped that far more attention would be paid towards ensuring that Chinese children learn more about Sarawak, particularly during the holidays.

There were too many people in Kuching, he said, who hardly ever travelled about in the country here. He said he would like to see much more movement, and movement of small groups which could see something of the way of life of other communities. He hoped parents would encourage their children not only to make visits to other parts of this very attractive and hospitable country, but also make friends of boys and girls of other races both in the capital and outside.

## **Message**

Sir Anthony concluded with this message: "I feel sure that increased attention to these three vital matters of language, sport and the acquisition of an improved knowledge of your homeland Sarawak will stand you and your children and Chinese culture in good stead.

"I believe that the peoples of Sarawak if united by friendly understanding have a great future before them and that this fine school has a notable part to play."

And with that he declared the school open and wished its staff and its benefactors every success in the future.

Earlier, Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang, spoke of his pleasant duty and honour as Patron of the Board of Management of Kuching Chinese Schools in welcoming all guests and thanking them for celebrating with them the formal opening of the new school buildings which have recently been completed.

## Board's Thanks

Mr. Wee also expressed the Board's gratitude to Sir Anthony for consenting to open the school. He said: "In view of your Excellency's departure from Sarawak on retirement, we appreciate this all the more as, despite being so full of other more pressing engagements, you have found time, Sir, to do us this great honour". On behalf of the Board, Mr. Wee also wished Sir Anthony a long and happy retirement.

Continuing, Mr. Wee said: "The completion of these school buildings is for us an important step forward in the progress of education in Chinese in this country. All these achievements have been possible due to not only the generosity and the interest shown in education by the community but also by the hard work put into one project over a period of several years by members of the Building Fund Committee, Members of the Board and Members of the Building sub-Committee.

"We are sorry that some of these members have since passed on and did not live to see the completion of this project on which they have set their heart. Let us remember them on this happy occasion. To them and to those who are still with us we owe a debt of gratitude."

Before calling upon Sir Anthony to perform the opening ceremony, Mr. Wee also expressed "our appreciation of the assistance given by Governments who contribute half the total cost of this project.

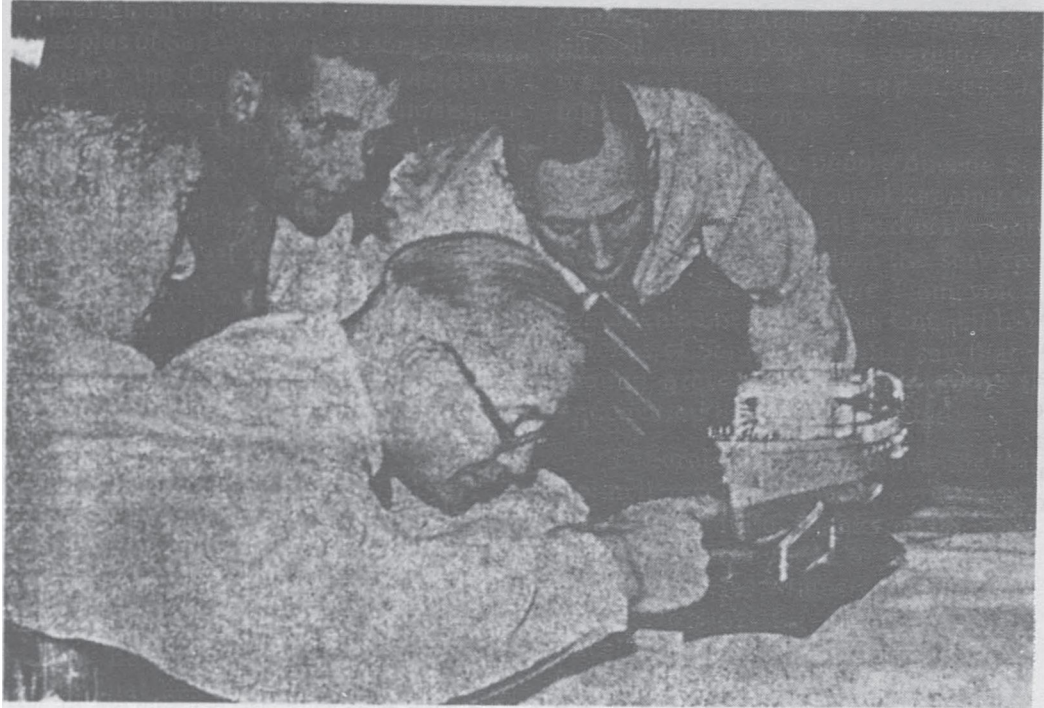
The Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, Mr. Ong Kwan Hin later made his report.

Later the Governor unveiled a plaque on the wall of the staff in the main hall. This was followed by the firing of crackers.

A tea party and entertainments by the students followed after Sir Anthony had inspected the school buildings.

# H.E. Gets Model of "Zahora" From Dockyard

November 6, 1959



*GSIS photo shows the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, inspecting a model of the M. Y. Zahora which was presented to him by the Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works.*

*Around him (reading from left) are: Mr. G.T. Barnes, the Governor's Private Secretary, Mr. J.K. Wardzala, General Manager of the Brooke Dockyard and Mr. A.M. Carson, the Dockyard Manager.*

Kuching, Thurs: — The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, this morning paid a visit to the Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works where at an informal ceremony he was presented with a farewell memento — a handsome model of the Motor Yacht Zahora — by the General Manager, Mr. J.K. Wardzala, on behalf of the staff.

The Zahora has sailed thousands of miles taking Sir Anthony on his travels about Sarawak.

At the presentation Mr. Wardzala spoke of the deep interest the Governor had always shown in the affairs of the Dockyard and of the encouragement he had given when it was badly needed.

He added that the staff of the Brooke Dockyard was proud to have been 'keeper' of the Governor's personal launch, the Zahora, and he hoped that the memento would "serve as a link between us."

Inche Bugo bin Keria, the foreman who has served nearly 40 years in the Dockyard, then wished Sir Anthony a happy retirement.

Sir Anthony, in thanking the staff for the memento, spoke of the good service being rendered by the Dockyard in its task of helping to maintain communications in Sarawak.

The model, made of teak with brass fittings, was built by the Dockyards craftsmen.

The following people built it:

Mr. Leong Hin Lin, draughtsman, (11 years' service): Designed and made the model and all the brass fittings, including the brass funnel. Painted and fitted out the model.

Mr. Patrick Uding, apprentice, (3 years' service) assisted Mr. Leong to make, paint and fit out the model.

Inche Ahmat Gani, machinist, (13 years' service), made brass fittings — machined



stachions, ventilators, winch, horns, door, knobs, propeller boss and shafting, flag staffs, boat davits bell and bell davit and knobs for stands.

Inche Bakar Usop, fitter (14 years' service): made window frames, port hole frames, davit bearings, shaft bracket, fitting, drilling and soldering the ventilators, drilling holes for davit, flag-staff and stanchions, fairleads, bull ring, horn clear and bollard.

Inche Mustapha, fitter, (14 years' service): made ladders, anchors and navigation lights.

Inche Bujang MacPherson, junior technical assistant, (eight years' service): hand painted flags and assisted fitters in the above work.

Mr. Cheong Kui Foon, shipwright, (16 years' service): selected teak for hull and made teak stand for model.

## **A Fishing Rod For H.E.**

Kuching, Wednesday:— The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, who is a keen fisherman, was yesterday presented with a 10-foot long Hardy (Gold Medal) salmon fishing rod with reel and line as a farewell gift from the Sarawak Government Senior Service Officers' Association.

The presentation was made at the Astana by a delegation from the Association, led by the Chairman, Capt. J.R. Blease.

Arrangements will be made for Sir Anthony to choose a selection of flies on his return to England as this is normally a special 'indulgence of the angler.

## **Gazetted Police Officers Fete Governor**

November 7, 1959

The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, was 'dined out' at the Sarawak Constabulary Gazetted Officers' Mess at Fort Margherita in Kuching on 6 November, 1959.

It was a small but glittering occasion—the dining hall in the historic building was beautifully decorated, the police officers were in mess jackets and the Constabulary Band performed throughout. The Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, the Attorney-General, Mr. P.E.H. Pike, and the Governor's Private Secretary, Mr. G.T. Barnes, were only guests present.

In a short speech, the Acting Commissioner, Mr. A.N. Outram, thanked the Governor for his support and friendliness towards the Constabulary during his tenure of office. He then read out a message from the Commissioner, Mr. P.E. Turnbull.

The message said: "I am so very sorry I am unable to be present tonight on the occasion of the dining-out of Your Excellency.

However, I am happy in the knowledge that Your Excellency is in capable hands and I am confident that the dining-out will be a style to make even Guy Fawkes envious.

"The departure of Your Excellency from these shores is a sad event for the Sarawak Constabulary as it is for the country. Your Excellency's unfailing and close interest in the Force is deeply appreciated by all Ranks. We are consoled by the knowledge that Your Excellency's wise counsels will remain a constant inspiration to us all for many years to come. I wish Your Excellency a long and happy retirement."

Mr. Outram then presented Sir Anthony, on behalf of all ranks of the Constabulary, a handsome eight-inch long silver police baton.

In reply the Governor thanked the Acting Commissioner and all ranks for their gift and went on to say how he had watched with pride the Constabulary getting better and better over the years.



*GSIS picture shows the Governor, in a happy mood, conducting the Sarawak Constabulary Band playing the Sir Anthony Abell Troop, a special slow march in triple rhythm, composed by the Director of Music, Mr. G.R.K. Freeth. He wot invited to conduct the Band.*

The standards of recruit, he then said, had improved tremendously and the police had now the respect and friendship of the public. The Governor next spoke of the unfailing loyalty and courtesy shown to him at all times by the Constabulary, and before concluding had a special word of thanks for the Band.

After this, the Governor left the dining hall and went downstairs to the Band where he presented a gift from himself — a magnificent ceremonial Drum Major's Sash, which he placed over Sergeant Dollah bin Derah.

The Sash, which was made in London, is in police blue edged with silver braid. Featuring from the top are various emblems embroidered in silver thread and coloured silks —

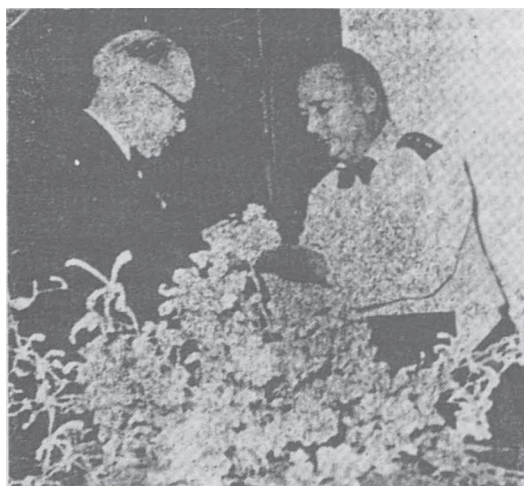
the Crown and Royal Cypher, followed by the five-string lyre — the insignia of military bands, then the crest of the Sarawak Constabulary enriched in laurel leaves, under which is a scroll bearing the word "Sarawak". A silver tassel hangs from the Sash.

On behalf of the Band, the Director of Music, Mr. G.R.K. Freeth, presented Sir Anthony with a tape recording of selected Sarawak music which the Band has played for the Governor during various functions.

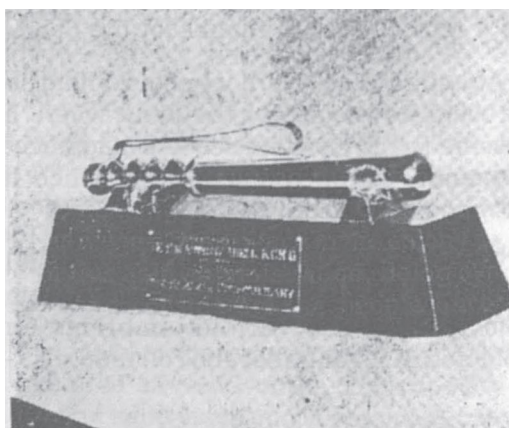
The Governor was then invited to conduct the Band, playing "The Sir Anthony Abell Troop" — a special type of show march in triple rhythm which was composed by Mr. Freeth for parade inspections.



*Sir Anthony Abell is seen here in this GISIS picture placing a ceremonial Drum Major sash over Sgt. Dollah bin Derah which he presented to the Sarawak Constabulary Band. Behind Sgt. Dollah is Band Sgt. Major Mohamad bin Daud.*



*GSIS picture shows Mr. A.N. Outram, the Acting Commissioner of Sarawak Constabulary, presenting a silver Police baton (covered by flowers) to Sir Anthony Abell last Thursday night.*



*A close-up of the silver Police baton which was presented to Sir Anthony Abell by all Ranks of the Sarawak Constabulary,*



# You're The Life Blood Of This Country: Chinese Told 'Back The Gov't Call' 'I'm Leaving Here The Best Team' Sir Anthony

November 9, 1959



*Tribune pictures below show (top) Sir Anthony being greeted by some members of the Chinese community on his arrival at the Chinese Chamber last Saturday night for the farewell dinner; and (bottom) Sir Anthony (left) and Mr. Tan Kui Choon looking at the Chinese community's parting gift.*

The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, has strongly urged the Chinese people, as commercial people — the life blood of this country — to back the Government tooth and nail in its plans for the progress of their prosperity and for the future of Sarawak.

Sir Anthony was speaking at the farewell

dinner given in his honour by the Chinese community in the capital last night. The function was held at the premises of the Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce at Main Bazaar.

Earlier in his speech the Governor said he was obliged to his old friend, probably his oldest friend, Mr.

Tan Kui Choon, the Chairman of the Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, for the kind remarks made. He also thanked Mr. Tan and the Chinese people for the dinner and for the overwhelming gift — a magnificent and beautiful screen.

## It Will Warm His Heart

He said: "I find it very difficult to say thank you adequately to you all for such a thing. It would dignify any house anywhere in the world. It will overwhelm, I think, the house of a poor pensioner in England."

But, he said, he would proudly display it as an example of the Chinese arts, and added that he had no doubt at all that late at night he would prove conclusive that it was made in Padungan in Kuching.

He assured that it would keep away the cold winds of winter and it would warm his heart when he remembered the kindness and the consideration and all the hospitality he received from all the Chinese people in Kuching and elsewhere; that it would always represent to him.

The past three weeks he had journeyed up and down the country. He had received the sort of kindness and hospitality that people seemed only to receive in Sarawak, he continued.

"In return," he added, "I have made pompous speeches, telling people how they should conduct themselves in the future as though it was I who, in fact, was trying to get into the preserves of the Kuching Municipal Council at the next election instead of saying goodbye to very good friends. And I am sure there are many people who resent the amount of room I've taken up in your newspapers while, of course, Dennis Law is away, and in the Time of Radio Sarawak, because

that time and space should be taken up by people who are going to be useful to you in the future. So don't despair, I've prepared no speech this evening."

## Best Team

Continuing Sir Anthony said: "This is a young expanding country. And I believe you have got or coming to you a young, resilient and efficient Governor; he has been carefully selected for his qualities, for his experience, for this very job. You have seen your new Chief Secretary; you know many of the Government officers, I feel and I am sure that I'm leaving here the best team that Sarawak has ever have.

"It's young and it's up-to-date. It's backed by civil service that I maintain is second to none in the whole of Southeast Asia. And I think Sarawak has a great future ahead of it.

"But," he added, "you people here representing the chambers of commerce, representing industry generally, have also got to take an interest in this thing called government.

## Support

"It's to you that the Government must look for support. You must help and guide the Government in its policy. You know better than anybody else. I happen to know that because I get my bills every month that things have to be paid for and when under political and public pressure the Government is asked to spend more than it can afford on social services

and social amenities, it's to you as well as the Government who must say how you're going to pay for those things. These goods are yours when you'll pay me cash over the counter.

"So remember that, please. Remember that it's your job as commercial people to assist Government in one of its most difficult tasks and that is to satisfy the people in this country that economic development is the life blood of this country. There it goes hand in hand with social development; it must lead because it alone can pay for that development.

## Importance

"Now here I am being pompous again," he added, "But I do feel that is important and I do think that in some places the commercial community forget to back the Government in this one very important thing. You cannot remain aloof from the progress of this country in any form.

"And I ask you as commercial people, as the life blood of this country, to back this Government tooth and nail in its plans for the progress of your prosperity and for the future of this country.

"There I go away now I shall watch that progress with undiminished interest and with undiminished affection. And I thank you for the kindness I receive from the Chinese community wherever I've been in Kuching and throughout this country. It's an experience that I shall not forget," he concluded.

# Great Tribute Paid To Sir Anthony

Great tribute was paid to the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Foster Abell for his wisdom, virtue and boldness — all the fine qualities of a great man.

The tribute was made by the Chairman of the Kuching Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Tan Kui Choon, at a farewell dinner held at the Chamber's premises at Main Bazaar in honour of Sir Anthony.

(Sir Anthony will leave Sarawak this week-end on retirement).

The function was attended by many distinguished government officials and their wives; Mr. H. Nield, a Principal in the Far Eastern Department of the Colonial Office who is in the capital on a tour of the British Borneo territories; representatives of the various bodies in the Chinese community; and representatives of the local press and radio.

## Bid Farewell

Speaking on behalf of the Chinese community in Kuching, Mr. Tan said they had gathered to do honour and bid farewell to a man who had greatly influenced the lives of the people of Sarawak and had performed a notable service for his government.

Mr. Tan added that Sir Anthony came to Sarawak in April, 1950 while this country was upon the threshold of many important changes. He said it was his privilege at that time to represent the

Chinese community and officially welcomed the Governor at the Council Negri Chamber.

Once again, he said, he spoke for the Chinese community as Sir Anthony prepared to leave the country.

Mr. Tan said: "During the nine years which he has been in Sarawak we have witnessed many changes come about and we have seen advancement made in numerous directions, particularly for the benefit of the people. Our country is happy; it is enjoying the privileges. It is at peace, and we enjoy prosperity.

## Many Friends

"Sir Anthony is truly an able man. He has won many staunch friends and admirers not only for himself but for the government he represents and the democratic way of life.

"Tonight, I think, I can speak freely for the Chinese community when I say that we here are loyal and devoted to the government which has proven itself capable of administering affairs in an efficient manner and has shown due consideration to the people and the people's welfare."

Mr. Tan said Sir Anthony had proven himself a great man by all standards of measurement and judgement.

"We like to measure by the standards of Confucius who said that the way of a great man is threefold: Virtuous, he is free from anxie-

ties; Wise, he is free from perplexities; Bold, he is free from fear. I am sure you all will agree that His Excellency possesses all of these fine qualities. Therefore he is a great man and a good Governor," Mr. Tan said.

Mr. Tan said Sir Anthony had been a good Governor, and the people here felt sorry to see him leave the country. However, he added, Sir Anthony was entitled to his well-deserved rest from the arduous duties as official head of the government.

## Good Wishes

"He leaves with our good wishes and many thanks for his kindness, consideration and courtesies he has shown our people. One thing I can assure His Excellency is this. We will always recall him as a man who had deep and abiding respect for the customs and traditions of the people of various races here and one who had particularly devoted to youth welfare work and the welfare of the people," Mr. Tan added.

Mr. Tan then asked Sir Anthony to accept a gift, a beautifully made Chinese screen, from the Chinese community of Kuching as "a symbol of love" they had for him and their great joy of having associated and served with a good friend.

He wished Sir Anthony a long life and happiness in his retirement.

Mr. Tan then proposed a toast to Sir Anthony, to which everyone responded.



# Governor's Call To People Of Sarawak

## A New Spirit Of Compromise, Tolerance And Understanding

November 9, 1959

A call to the people of Sarawak, and particularly the Chinese community, for a new spirit of compromise, of tolerance, of co-operation, and a more generous understanding of each other's various points of view, was made by the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, who also reminded all that there is no room any longer for divided loyalties.

In a Chinese New Year message broadcast on the occasion of the Chinese New Year, Sir Anthony started his address by wishing all peace and prosperity and happiness in the year ahead.

"This will be the last Chinese New Year I shall spend among you as Governor," he said. "The pleasure I always derive from your unvarying hospitality and kindness is therefore on this occasion touched with sadness. You and I have spent nine peaceful and very happy years together during which time Sarawak has made great material progress.

These years have been unmarred by any form of strife and our ancient traditions of tranquility and concord have been maintained and I hope strengthened. I am very thankful for this and I know you and all the other people in Sarawak are proud of our record too.

"It is customary to count our blessings at a season of happiness and goodwill like this because they provide the basis of our confidence in the future but it is also wise at the New Year to do a little stocktaking as well and see how we can the better face the problems of the coming year.

### Outstanding characteristics

"It is true that 1958 was not a year of great commercial prosperity. By comparison with my early years in Sarawak it was rather lean. This is due to circumstances over which we have little control and we can but hope that the prices of our major exports will hereafter improve. You have in the past often experienced similar fluctuations in our fortunes. For you Chinese have been in Sarawak for many generations and have made a very

notable contribution to the prosperity we at present enjoy. One of the most outstanding of your characteristics is your resilience and adaptability. You came here as strangers long ago to a land which was very different to your own. You had little more than the clothes you wore. You could not speak the language of this country: you knew nothing of its customs: but your vigour and adaptability quickly made you an essential part of the community and showed how best you could contribute to Sarawak's progress. It is interesting to recall that as long ago as 1850 the first sago refinery was opened in Kuching by Chinese. In 1878 the Rajah allocated land to certain Chinese merchants so that they could experiment with the cultivation of pepper. You found gold and exploited it at Bau.

### New obligations

In the field of politics as well a sensitive and buoyant approach to modern concepts, to new pressures, to the aspirations of a new generation here in Sarawak is required. In Sarawak the Chinese have got to take on new responsibilities and new obligations. When in 1867 the Rajah established the General Council to advise him on affairs of state, no Chinese were included in that body. It was not in fact until 1941 when the Third Rajah brought in his Constitution that tie Chinese were represented — then out of a total membership of 44 in Council Negri four were Chinese. Today you are much more strongly represented, both in Council Negri and in Supreme Council. In local Government you are now playing a very prominent part. In all the local authorities in Sarawak the Chinese are represented by 159 members, the Malays by 102 members, and the Sea Dayaks by 196 members. So you see the whole status of the Chinese in Sarawak has changed radically in quite a short time. I know most of you are conscious of this change and appreciate that for better or for worse you have married into this family and the whole relationship has changed to meet the challenge of these new family responsibilities. You are no longer strangers in a strange land; this country you

now share with others; it is in fact your motherland and those who share its destiny with you are your brothers. There is no room any longer for divided loyalties. We all know there are differences between the races in this country, and often they are over-stressed, but they are in fact of small account when considered alongside the wide range of interests, of advantages, of problems, of dangers you share. A new spirit of compromise, of tolerance, of co-operation, and a more generous understanding of each other's various points of view is required by us all.

You brought rubber from Malaya and in very many ways you demonstrated the commercial promise of this country.

You genius for taking the long view in trade and politics is equally required today. We cannot rely for always on the old methods of earning our living. But by exercising those great virtues of industry, initiative and perseverance which everybody so particularly admire in the Chinese, I know Sarawak will develop its economy with that vigorous pioneering spirit which has served us all so well in the past! I imagine such ideas and plans are among your New Year's resolutions and I am sure your initiative and enterprise will be increasingly followed by your fellow countrymen of other races.

## **Rule of the law**

You know well that then you are on to a good thing, you should stick to it and back it for all you are worth. Sarawak offers you se-

curity in a peaceful environment. In this country enterprise and opportunity can flourish, assisted and protected by an honest and an efficient administration. We live by the rule of law. There is freedom and justice assured for all without regard to class or race or creed. There are some who lag behind others in education or health, in wisdom or in riches and it is in all our interests to give a helping hand to the weak and the backward until a common high standard of living and education has been achieved. In this the Chinese can make the greatest contribution of all and therefore perhaps the greatest sacrifices. There can be no real happiness or harmony in our Sarawak family if there is a wide disparity of wealth or learning. Ignorance and poverty breed dangerous frustrations which can explode in savage retaliation. We have all seen this happen many times before in other countries, in Europe and in the East. We must and will avoid it here in Sarawak. We have here the traditions, the good will and every opportunity which a stable Government offers to build a prosperous, successful and happy nation, provided we recognise that the future will require of us all a conscious effort to understand the feelings and convictions and aspirations of others.

"So here in Sarawak we have much to be thankful for and much to do. We can start our New Year with a confident and joyful heart but with a resolve to live up to our new civic responsibilities and honour our old traditions.

"Kiong Hee Fatt Choi."

# H.E. To Attend Farewell Parade

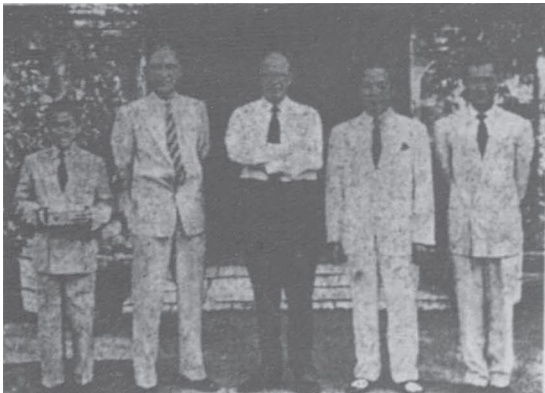
## He'll Leave Astana For The Last Time As Governor

November 12, 1959

The Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, will on Saturday afternoon attend a farewell parade at Pangkalan Batu prior to his departure from Sarawak by the Rajah Brooke on the first leg of his journey to the United



GSIS picture shows the delegation of the Saawak Dayak National Union (Women Section) with the Governor. Reading from left are: Mrs. Janting, Mr. Daud, Madam Jlnia Linang, Sir Anthony Abell, Madam Barbara Bey and Mrs. Tra Zehnder.



Picture shows (reading from left): Mr. J.A. Kuek, Mr. Lo Suan Hian, Sir Anthony, Mr. K.F. Wong and Mr. Au Yong Nang Gun.

Kingdom and retirement.

Sir Anthony will leave the Astana officially for the last time as Governor of Sarawak at 5 p.m. on Saturday. He will be in ceremonial uniform, and as he leaves the Astana Ground a seventeen-gun salute will be fired from Fort Margherita.

### Guard of Honour

At Pangkalan Batu Sir Anthony will inspect a 100-men strong Guard of Honour mounted by the Sarawak Constabulary. He will also inspect detachments (each 30-strong) provided by the Red Cross Society, the Girl Guides, the Boy Scouts and the Salvation Army. The Sarawak Constabulary Band will be in attendance.

After the ceremonial inspection, Sir Anthony will bid farewell to those specially invited for the occasion — members of the Legislative, Council, Head of Departments, community leaders and their wives.

He will then return to the Astana to prepare for embarkation on the 'Zahora'.

### Escort to Pending

When the m.y. 'Zahora' sails down the river to Pending, it will be escorted by the police launch, the 'Margherita' and other craft of the Marine Department.

During this period Main Bazaar will be closed to all traffic from 4.45 p.m. onwards until the Guard had marched off. Traffic will be diverted to Rock Road and Courthouse Road.

A rehearsal will take place at 5 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

## Photographic Society's Gift To Patron

Kuching, Wed. — A party representing the Sarawak Photographic Society, consisting of Mr. K.F. Wong (President); Mr. Lo Suan Hian; Mr. J.A. Kuek and Mr. Au Yong Nang Gun met the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell at the Astana this morning.

Mr. K.F. Wong, on behalf of the members of the Society, presented to Sir Anthony, who is Patron of the Society, a box containing sixty coloured transparencies as a small token of the esteem and gratitude of the Society, for the encouragement and support he has given

as the Patron of the Society, since its inception.

The colour slides were taken by various members of the Society (Messrs. Lo Chun Lai, J.A. Kuek, Au Yong Nang Gun, Lo Luan Hian and K.F. Wong) and they depict scenes of the capital, Malay kampongs, Land Dayak hill padi farm, the Kayan people, Iban longhouse and Chinese festival ceremonies. They were selected from a panel of 300 slides.

Sir Anthony expressed appreciation of the kind gesture.



# The "Abell" Era

## Ten Years Of Splendid Progress

November 13, 1959

Emphasis that the 1950's in Sarawak would go down in the country's history as the Abell era was made in a farewell address by the Chairman of the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce, Mr. R.T.R. Fletcher, at a reception given by the Chamber in honour of the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell in the Rose Room of the Aurora Hotel last night.

About ninety people, representing a small fraction of the people employed by the Members of the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce (senior and executive staff) attended this function.

### Not Happy Occasion

"This is not a happy occasion for any of us," Mr. Fletcher said. "Farewell at the best of times are tinged with sadness and this is no exception. For the younger generation, and for the great majority of the Executive staff present, they have known no other Governor and your departure will be a great loss to them.

"You have been here for a whole decade — the 1950's will go down in the history of Sarawak as the Abell Era and to the older people you will be remembered affectionately as the Fourth Rajah.

"Let us cast our minds back to 1950 when your Excellency first set foot on Sarawak soil. Your unfortunate predecessor had only a short while before been the victim of a dastardly attack resulting in his tragic death. The country was still recovering from the aftermath of war, there was disharmony amongst certain factions of the people and the administration was in the course of transition from the outlook of those carefree pre-war days to a New Look, as a very new member of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

### Firm Foundations

What splendid progress had been made in those ten years, Mr. Fletcher continued. Even greater progress, he said, would be achieved during the next ten years but these would stem directly from the firm foundations laid during Sir Anthony's term of office.

Mr. Fletcher then cited the advances made in the education and in the medical and social services; the wharfs, airfields and roads; and, he added, it was not to be disputed that the key to the country's economic advancement lay in the success of the policies now being implemented by the Department of Agriculture allied with the rapid improvement of internal communications.

### Time Of Hope

"As is inevitable this country has experienced its trading recessions through circumstances beyond its control," Mr. Fletcher went on. "But you, Sir, are leaving us at a time of hope, when trade has recovered to a marked extent and when there is abroad an air of optimism for the future which we hope will attract new enterprises contributing in no small measure to the prosperity and well being of the people of this country."

In passing, Mr. Fletcher also mentioned something about the Sarawak Chamber of Commerce which, he said, was founded in the year of the Governor's arrival. There were eight Founder Members and now in 1959 they had a membership of 26. This was concrete evidence of the progress made during the decade which was drawing to a close.

Mr. Fletcher then, on behalf of the Chamber made a presentation to Sir Anthony — 'a small token of the great veneration and esteem in which you are held'.

### T.V. Set

This is in the form of a television set which is to be delivered to Sir Anthony's residence in London.

In making this presentation, Mr. Fletcher said: "We hope that it will serve to remind you of this happy and sunny land of Sarawak — especially during those long dark winter evenings ahead of you in England. It may even bring to your fireside brief glimpses of your beloved land in the distant East. But please do not let it become your master."

The company wishes Sir Anthony good health, a long and peaceful retirement and hoped that one day he would return for a holiday to renew old 'friendships'.

# Indian Muslim League's Tribute To Governor

Tribute to the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, was paid today by the President of the Kuching Indian Muslim League, Mr. K.S.A. Majeed.

Mr. Majeed, in a statement to the press said that it was most regrettable that the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, was unable to attend a farewell reception which the League had planned to honour him, because of his pressing engagements.

Nevertheless, Mr. Majeed said, this would not lessen any degree the appreciation and sincere gratitude which the members of the Indian Muslim League had towards him.

Mr. Majeed added that in Sir Anthony's ten years tenure of office in Sarawak he had

been a wise leader and excellent administrator with personal qualities that had made Sarawak the peaceful and prosperous country it was today.

"Sir Anthony's special interest in the minority races in Sarawak and his fair and just relationship to the people has won for him the admiration and respect of all. This is a debt which we here cannot repay," Mr. Majeed added.

Mr. Majeed said the members of his League would like to publicly take this opportunity of wishing Sir Anthony long life, good health and a happy retirement, and to hope that he may one day be able to pay a visit to Sarawak again.

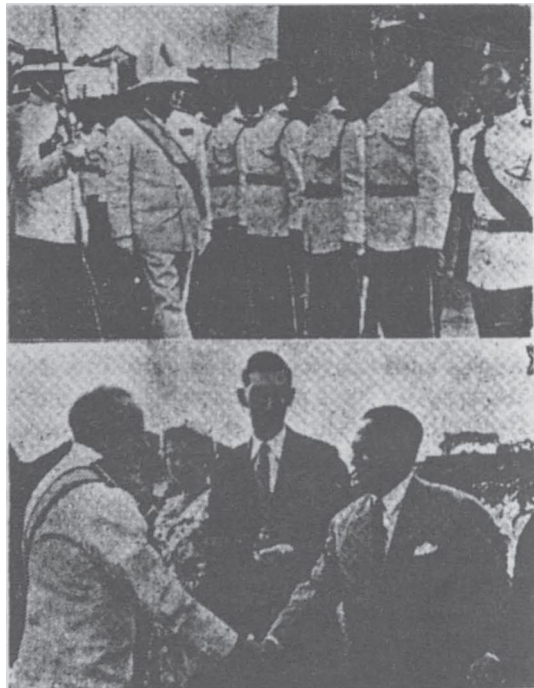
## Governor Sails From Sarawak Record Turn-Out At River Front

November 16, 1959

Never had the water front along the Sarawak River seen so many people on 14 November, 1959 — not even on the occasion of the two Royal visits — as that of yesterday afternoon when the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell sailed from the steps of the Astana for the last time as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Sarawak, for the Rajah Brooke to take him on his first leg of the journey to retirement.

According to the official programme, the Governor was due at Pangkalan Batu at 5 p.m. to inspect a Guard of Honour and to say farewell to members of the Supreme Council and Council Negri before making his departure, but long before that time there were already large crowds comprising all races, gathered on both banks of the river to catch a final glimpse of one who has prove himself to be a personal friend of all the people, and to say goodbye.

At approximately 4.45 p.m., the Governor, in full ceremonial dress was seen at the steps of the Astana ground, accompanied by his Private Secretary, Mr. G.T. Barnes and his A.D.C., Abang Marzuki, and as he entered



*Tribute pictures show (top) Sir Anthony Abell making his last inspection, as Governor of Sarawak, of the Guard of Honour mounted by the Sarawak Constabulary last Saturday afternoon; and (bottom) Sir Anthony shaking hands with Mr. William Tan, president of the Kuching Municipal Council-Looking on are Mr. P.Eth. Pike, the Attorney-General and Mrs. Pike.*

the Astana sampan a seventeen-gun salute was fired from Fort Margherita.

Sir Anthony stepped on to the Pangkalan Batu at the stroke of 5 and was received by the Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. A.N. Outram, The Constabulary Band, under the direction of the Director of Music, Mr. G. Freeth, struck up the National Anthem, and following this Sir Anthony inspected a 100-strong Guard of Honour mounted by the Sarawak Constabulary.

## Inspection

Then came the inspection of the detachments of Red Cross, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and Salvation Army (each 30-strong). By then the crowd in the vicinity of Pangkalan Batu had swelled and a remarkable feature was that it was an unusually silent crowd that illustrated the solemn atmosphere of the occasion.

All through this inspection Sir Anthony never lost his well-loved characteristic of stopping here and there to chat to individuals, with personal remarks.

The ceremony over, the time came to say good-bye to members of the Supreme Council, the Council Negri, Heads of Government Departments and personal friends who were gathered at the Pangkalan Batu yard.

It was a sad moment and there were many who found it difficult to control their emotion as Sir Anthony shook hands with his officers and friends, one by one, and then proceeded to the steps of the Pangkalan Batu for the last 'trip' back to the Astana.

Sir Anthony waved to the large crowd of people of all races who gathered at the Bund as he walked to the Astana sampan. It was a tribute from the crowd as they in turn raised their hands in silence — many undoubtedly found it hard to speak.

At 5.45 Sir Anthony came out of the Astana after changing from his ceremonial dress to a gray lounge suit and outside the Astana he took his leave from the Household staff. Crackers were fired and the time came for embarkation on the m.y. Zahora which was in full dress.

As the Zahora steamed down the river she was escorted by the m.y. Pergam, the Keppel and the police launch the Margherita.

Both banks of the river were lined with crowds of people who waved their handkerchiefs and as the Zahora passed Fort Margherita the Sarawak Constabulary Band, now back across the river and taking their stand on the bank of the river, played 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Among the few people on board the Zahora accompanying Sir Anthony to Pending were the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, the Director of Marine, Captain J.R. Blease and the Managing Director of Messrs. The Sarawak Steamship Co., Ltd., Mr. W.H. Dickie.

In the cool evening breeze the Zahora cruised slowly amid a sad and solemn atmosphere, along the Sarawak River, while Sir Anthony took a long last look at the buildings, the wharves, the people and the towering mountains in the receding background, which he has come to know so well.

People went as far as the Pending wharf to wait for the Zahora, and as it was sighted handkerchiefs went up fluttering in expression of 'good-bye'.

Dusk came very quickly and lights went on the Zahora and on all the other vessels in escort. It was seven o'clock when the Zahora came alongside the Rajah Brooke, in full dress and brilliantly lighted.

Before embarking on the Rajah Brooke, Sir Anthony stood alone on the far deck of the Zahora with his hands on the rail of the yacht and in silence looked back towards Kuching town for a full minute.

Then followed the farewell to the crew of the yacht and the Rajah Brooke was boarded. Another wave of the hand to the Zahora and her escorts and then the Rajah Brooke sailed at 7.15 p.m.

## 'Everlasting gratitude'

While on his way to Singapore, Sir Anthony received the following message from the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. F.D. Jakeway:

"On the final departure from these shores the people of Sarawak send you their heartfelt good wishes for many years of happy retirement and their everlasting gratitude for the great service you have rendered to their country during your nine years and more of Governorship."



He replied: "Very many thanks for a wonderful send off and for your kind wire and best wishes to you all".

On arrival in Singapore, Sir Anthony was reported to have said in an interview that he hoped Sarawak would one day be united with North Borneo and Brunei.

The report then added: 'Looking back over his nine years of Governorship, Sir Anthony said Sarawak had made great strides since it was ceded to Britain after the Second World War. The people still looked back with affection, however, on the rule of the Rajahs, who had in their way done so much for the country.

There were no doubt, he said, that in time to come Sarawak would become self-governing. The country had a great future.'

When he arrived in Sarawak nine years ago, the country was recovering from the Japanese occupation.

He was now leaving at a time when the country was facing another "turn in its history".

The people had become politically conscious and party politics had come to stay. He thought it was a good thing and was confident the country would improve.

Sarawak, he said, had two great assets: Friendly race relations and a sound common-sense in the people.

He favoured the use of Malay as a common language in Sarawak and surrounding territories, but felt it had its limitations in the commercial and international fields.'

Later Sir Anthony flew to Hong Kong for a short holiday. He will fly back to Singapore in time to catch a ship for Britain.



