

SARAWAK

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Shortly after sunrise the Mukah fishing fleet, manned by Melanaus, sets out to sea. Broad roomy vessels called Barongs, they fish throughout the fine weather season from March to September. During the rest of the year their activities are restricted by the season of rough weather called the Landas and during this time fishermen must turn their attention to planting padi or to working sago and timber.

FOREWORD BY MALCOLM MACDONALD

ONCE UPON A TIME Sarawak enjoyed a romantic fame as the realm of the White Rajahs. The story of its government through the century from 1839 to 1946 by three benevolent English autocrats, the Rajah Brookes, is one of the most attractive tales in the annals of sophisticated man's rule over primitive man.

Ten years ago, however, the third Rajah decided that he could no longer raise the resources or command the expert experience required to give his half-million subjects modern progressive government. Money was needed for economic and social development, technical advice was required if agricultural, medical and educational advance was to be soundly guided, and a broad political wisdom would be essential if the evolution of a still politically untutored population towards self-government was to be prudently accomplished. His Highness felt deep trust in the British Government's ability to provide these things, and so he ceded Sarawak to King George the Sixth.

The task of leading the people of Sarawak through all the changes of these eventful times now rests, therefore, on the British Government, Parliament and public.