

THURSDAY. JANUARY 2nd, 1941.

Engagement,

PEACH?HOUGHTON.?The engagement has recently been announced between the Rev. S. J. E. Peach, of Uitenhage, C.P. South Africa, and Miss Kathleen Houghton, of St. Mayv's School, Kuching, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Houghton, of Upminster, Essex, England.

DECEMBER, 1940.

We wish our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

His Excellency the Governor of North Borneo left for Singapore on December 12th and returned to that State at the end of the month During his absence the Hon?ble Mr. C. F. C. Macaskie has been Officer Administering the Government

Our readers will remember that Mr. Macaskie was appointed Government Secretary, Sarawak, in September, 1932. relinquishing the appointment in November, 1934, on the termination of the period of his secondment from the North Borneo Government Service.

We welcome back to Sarawak Mrs. C. Pitt Hardacre after her recent operation in the Singapore General Hospital. We are glad to see that Mrs. Pitt Hardacre has quite recovered from her illness Mr. C. F. Birt returned on December 16th from furlough, which he spent in Great Britain.

We congratulate Commander T. E. Halsey, His Highness the Tuan Muda's son-in-law, who has been awarded the D.S.O.

We hear that Sir Percy F. Cunynghame?s home in Onslow Square was badly damaged by a bomb and that he himself has been knocked down by a taxi in the blackout. We are glad to learn, however, that Sir Percy was not seriously injured.

Mrs. W. E. Pepys arrived in Kuching on December 28th on a short visit and is staying with Mr and Mrs. L D Kennedy.

We welcome back to Sarawak Mr. and Mrs. A. W. G. Gibson, who arrived on December 30th. They spent their furlough in Great Britain and returned via Australia.

We hear that Mr. P. M. Adams is under orders for foreign service somewhere in the Middle East.

THE POINT OF SACRIFICE.

His Highness the Rajah, in his Proclamation of the 14th December, has interpreted the desire of officers of his Senior Service to make, at this time, a personal sacrifice, Sarawak's contributions to funds devoted to the general expenses of the Imperial Government have been striking and have been rightly admired by others. This new decision to help the Imperial Government, by means of a tax on the salaries of British European officers in His Highness' Service, has been directly conceived by a spontaneous desire of those officers to make their contributions more personal, and so to express, in some small way, their desire to give what they can even to the point of personal sacrifice.

Magnificent though our efforts have so far been, it cannot yet be said that we have, any of us, reached that point where we can compare ourselves, and our conditions of life, with those of the people of Britain.

A short time ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer, during a speech at Glasgow, pointed out that it was plain that taxation alone would not be sufficient to pay for the whole cost of the war. There was a gap, he said, between income and expenditure which must be filled by means other than taxation.

In the main the gap must be bridged by the people of Britain saving and lending every pound and every penny that they could spare, not conveniently but to the point of real sacrifice.

We would do well to bear in mind that statement. Heavy though taxation now is in Britain, its people are still being urged to save and expend what they can spare. Furthermore, those loans must not be made conveniently but to the point of sacrifice.

How many of us in Sarawak can say that the imposition of the ten per cent, tax on our salaries will take us beyond the stage of personal convenience to the point of real sacrifice? How many of us can say that we have yet reached the point of personal inconvenience in our contributions to war funds? While we continue to live as they were lived before this war, while we continue to enjoy those comforts and luxuries that we have commenced to regard as necessities of life, far so long must we admit that, far from reaching the point of sacrifice, we have not yet even passed the stage of convenience.

It is a well-known fact, proved by the war, that the average man or woman is prepared to undergo extreme personal danger if that danger is shared by his fellows. Never before has heroism and personal disregard for danger been shown by so many men, women and children. ? heroism. not our in the face of physical danger, but to the point of personal sacrifice. We all know how heavy taxation now is in Britain, and yet we read of the magnificent voluntary efforts by individuals, by towns, and by cities to raise further contributions towards the enormous cost of the war.

To what can we ascribe this extraordinary and unflagging resolution on the part of our people at home? Surely the will to win must arise not only from the sure knowledge of the righteousness of our Cause, but also from the knowledge of the equality of that sacrifice demanded from all for the sole purpose in view? ultimate victory. For, just as a man can face, more readily, physical danger if he knows that that danger is shared by many, also is he prepared deliberately to calculate, and to undergo, personal sacrifice if he knows that that sacrifice is equally shared.

We are fighting not only against that monstrous political theory called Nazism and all that it means, but we are fighting, too, in the belief that evil is rotten in our own house will be up-rooted. We are fighting for a better world in which each one of us can do his part, and in which ??the obsolete but no longer on the coat-tails of rule, which serve no purpose and are continually coming off? will be finally eradicated.

And so, let us not preen ourselves in any self-directed pride on what we have done yesterday. Let us look to to-morrow and say to ourselves, ?e must be prepared to give even more until we have reached, and passed, the point of real personal sacrifice.?

THE PEOPLE'S INHERITANCE. Fifty Years Ago.

(From the 10th of November 1, 1890.)

?Recent large concessions of huge tracts of country in Sarawak, by the native Rajah are rapidly causing depopulation of that already sparsely inhabited country. The people are coming in large numbers, accompanied by their families, over the frontier and are seeking in Sarawak some land for farming which they may safely settle on without the fear of expulsion by the employees of a company which may have been formed to seek gold or plant tobacco. They are loud in their complaints at

having to leave land which they and their ancestors worked and regarded as their own for generations; the fact that these people are leaving in numbers and bringing their all with them proves that their complaints are not groundless.

"It is strange that the Netherlands India Government should allow a native Rajah, the Sultan of Sambas, who is nominally under the control of the Dutch Government, recklessly to sell his territory to foreigners. What will a Malay Rajah not part with for the sake of a few dollars?

?Concessions of land for planting tobacco or working gold, in these regions, and even in British North Borneo with its almost similar climate, have recently been shewn to be profitable speculations only to the original purchasers and the unfortunates who are led, by artfully written prospectuses, to invest their money in companies to work such concessions have by now learned to their sorrow that the land will scarcely provide them with any dividends though it has unlimited capabilities for swallowing their capital.

?Tobacco planting has been proved to be a very doubtful industry in Sarawak and in British North Borneo in which latter country numbers of companies have already failed and those remaining are merely kept going by raising fresh capital or by amalgamating with some other company less badly off than themselves. Concessions worked on these lines cannot do any permanent good to any country; except that a certain amount of money is circulated for a short period amongst the natives, which gives a false impetus to native trade. As we have said above, the only real gainers are those who launch the company in London or Hong Kong.

?The land system in Borneo and the Eastern Archipelago should be worked on the same lines as in Australia and, we believe, Canada, where land is sold for special purposes and all large tracts for cultivation or pasturage instead of being handed over at a nominal price to speculators should be leased at a fair and judicious rental, the State remaining the real owner.

?The concession system, which has been in vogue in the East during the last few years is simply a game of pitch and toss between speculators and the vital interests of native countries governed by native sovereigns, and this should either be stopped or strictly regulated. That a native Rajah should sell to foreigners land belonging to the inhabitants of a country, without providing fair compensation

to these inhabitants, is no more right than that the Government of England should sell an English forest and other land to a Frenchman. What would the law and public opinion say of such an act? But this is what is being generally done in the Eastern Archipelago.?

Twenty Five Years Ago. (From the of September 1, 1915.)

Extract from His Highness the Rajah's speech at the Council Negri meeting held on 17th August, 1915.

To turn to another point and a most important one which the Rajah stated had been occupying his mind for a long time, and he now addressed the assembly hoping they would listen to what he had to say to recollect his words and endeavour to call them to mind when he was no more. He said he would make what he had in his mind known to his successor or successors, but he felt he could only be responsible during the time of his life. He said he had lived in this country now 60 years for the

greater part of the time as Rajah. He felt as they

did in every way regarding the present and future

for the existence and welfare of the inhabitants. He thought after so long a period that they would allow him to open his mouth and give his opinion truthfully, and he drew their attention to others that may appear after his time with soft and smiling countenances to deprive them of what solemnly and truly he considered to be their right, and that is The Land. It is their inheritance on which their Daging Darah, flesh and blood exists, the source of their self existence, their herta pesaka which if once lost, no amount of money could ever recover. It is this cultivation-of the land by themselves or by those who live in the country that is so important. Cultivation by those who are strangers who carry the value of the products out of the country to enrich shareholders is undesirable. Such products should be realised by the industry of the inhabitants and for their benefit. Unless this advice is followed the inhabitants will lose their birthright which will be taken from them by strangers and speculators who will become masters and owners while they themselves, the people of the soil, will be thrown aside and become coolies and outcasts, and proofs of what he stated may be produced in countries not far distant. It is this danger that the Rajah warned them against. It was his

desire that they and their progeny become the holders and owners of what is or should be their just inheritance and so long as he was their Ruler he would consider it his -solemn duty to defend their rights and interests, but after his life the future would remain with them to be independent and free citizens or be a humbled and inferior class without pride in themselves or in their race. They must choose between the two, the owner or master on one side or the dependent and coolie on the other. It is for them to see that whoever rules this land, that the land is not granted away to strangers,?

And Now.

At a time when the world is once again in the turmoil of war, when individual rights are ignored and whole nations are being enslaved by the mad ambition of a few dictators, when life itself seems insecure and the future hidden in the mist of uncertainty, it is right that we, in whose care have been entrusted the lives and welfare of the people of Sarawak, should bear in mind the sacredness of that trust. Nothing that may happen elsewhere should ever, for one moment, divert us from the course that we have taken from the day that James Brooke arrived in this country.

Twenty-five years ago, in 1915, when England was once again at war with Germany, Rajah Charles Brooke called a meeting of his Council Negri and spoke to them his last words, knowing that he had not many more years to live. As we have seen, he reminded the people that the land is their inheritance, on which their daging darah, their flesh, and their blood existed, and which, if once lost, no amount of money could ever recover.

Fifty years ago, in. 1890. this Gazette emphasised the evil effects resulting from the grants of large concessions of land in Sambas by the native Rajah, concessions which rapidly caused depopulation of that country and drove numbers of people over the frontier into Sarawak where they could settle with- out the fear of foreign expulsion.

We believe that this question is as vital now as it was then, and we believe that the defence of the rights and interests of the natives of Sarawak remains for us as real and sacred a duty as it was for our forefathers;

For the rights of the natives of Sarawak spring from the soil of their land. And the land is their flesh and blood, their birthright, and their inheritance.

MAKE THIS YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION.

BUY WAR SAVING CERTIFICATES

EVERY DOLLAR YOU LEND TO BRITAIN WILL ADD TO THE VAST INCREASE OF STRENGTH
BRITAIN IS STEADILY BUILDING UP TO SMASH HITLER. LEND WHAT YOU SAVE FROM
YOUR INCOME OR SALARY TO BRITAIN BY BUYING WAR
SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

War Savings Certificates are sold in denominations of \$15. \$75. \$150, and \$750 each, and they carry 3 per cent, compound interest. Your savings are growing all the time¹. At the end of 10 years, for every \$15 invested you will get \$20 in return. If, however, you wish to draw the money before 10 years, you can cash your War Savings Certificates at any time. On Certificates cashed after the first year, you will receive the principal in full, plus compound interest at the rate of 3 per cent. War Savings Certificates are guaranteed by the Straits Settlements Government. There is no safer security.

WHAT BETTER GIFT TO YOUR FAMILY?YOUR FRIENDS?FOR THE NEW YEAR THAN WAR
SAVINGS CERTIFICATES !

Every dollar counts in this Fight for Your Freedom and Security, and every dollar saved can become part of another Bomber or Fighter, another Gun or Bomb, with which to knock out Hitler.

CALL AT ANY POST OFFICE IN SARAWAK FOR FULL PARTICULARS OF THIS GILT-EDGED
INVESTMENT. SAVE REGULARLY AND LEND TO BRITAIN TO WHOM WE OWE THE
SECURITY AND PROSPERITY WE ENJOY IN SARAWAK TO-DAY.

The Laughter of Fools.

You all know the unfortunate jester who, when suffering from a distinct hangover, whose wife had gone off with an entire stranger, whose son had been captured by Red Indians and subjected to certain sacrificial rites too domestic to mention here, and whose daughter?well, perhaps the less said about that the better?(Oh ! I think he'd also lost his ticket and somebody had kicked his dog), was taunted by his Royal Master with "Do you know, you're paid to be funny?"

That, of course, may be called an exaggerated case, but I certainly did feel rather like the jester

when the Editor of this paper asked me to write him something bright and sparkling. In these days nothing much sparkles, including the disgusting soda water in the Club, and brightness is generally left to the sweet young things. Nevertheless, a certain number of us do see the funny side of things in the short intervals between our efforts to beat the Nazis.

It's quite all right if you can laugh at yourself.

Quite a lot can, but, believe me, quite a lot can't! It is true, I believe, that most of our English humour consists in laughing at the misfortunes of others. Very silly, it sounds, but very true. A man sits on his hat, someone slips up on a banana skin.

There are hundreds of similar examples. One of the funniest things I ever saw was a most haughty dame who had lost one of her very high heels. It was in London, no taxi was in sight, and the rage and humiliation of the lady were indescribable as she hobbled along.

In my own family (I am afraid that we are a ribald lot) we still see the humour of events which happened, oh, I don't know how many years ago !

When the nervous curate swallowed one of my mother's set of hand-painted d'oyleys with his strawberries and cream ; when I smacked the artificial cheek-pads out of one of my aged grand-aunts' face; when, during the last War, one of my aunts stepped out of the remains of a hansom cab (yes, really!) which had been shattered by a Jerry bomb, killing the horse and wounding the driver, and Calmly asked a horrified police constable to find her another hansom as she never thought motor vehicles were quite safe !

You may think (if you have read as far as this) that this is sheer waste of paper and, anyhow, what is it all leading to ?

I am assured by the Printers that there is plenty of paper for this article, and all I want to emphasise is the need to keep a laugh or two handy. I sav this with the full knowledge that the amount of misery and disaster which the people of our Country* are enduring now is not in the strict sense of the word 'a laughing matter.' Yet, oddly enough, it is?and as this article (I hardly like to give it such a grand title) will be published at New Year, whilst we make every effort by work, money and concentration to finish the enemy' once and for all, let us not forget to laugh at things perhaps serious, sometimes trivial, and frequently ridiculous.

O.F.

THERE'S A NAZI AIRFIELD IN ENGLAND.

BY NOEL MONKS.

Daily Mail Air Correspondent.

I have just returned from a visit to a Nazi airfield?in England. At least, it was easy to imagine I was on a Nazi 'drome, because there were more Nazi aircraft in sight than our own. And they all weren't in pieces, either.

Apart from more modern types, there were Junker ! 87's and 88's, and Dornier 17's, a little the worse for wear after coming up against R.A.F. fighters but mostly whole. Finally, there was a large scrap-heap where Nazi machines of all types were lying about in tangled piles. None of these would ever fly again in its original entity, but undamaged pieces of the 'planes were being skilfully assembled by R.A.F. mechanics into the less-damaged hulks of Nazi machines.

This particular aerodrome is a graveyard of

blasted Nazi hopes. Here the 'mighty' German Air Force is represented by six of its foremost types of warplanes, but none of them will ever fly for the Reich again. All had met their masters in the R.A.F. Hurricanes and Spitfires that had shot them down.

With these types of aircraft, Goring was going

to blast a way for Hitler's invasion of Britain. Admittedly, some of them were good?but not good enough for the combination of British workmanship and R.A.F. pilots. Some of the gadgets in them were new to us, but they didn't avail the Nazis anything. Down came the machines, gadgets and all, once our eight-gun fighters got them lined up.

In one of the hangars I visited were a number of

Goring's "terror bombers," the Ju. 87's and 88's.

The only terrible thing about them now is the

mess our fighters made of them. These machines

the first a single-engined aircraft and the other

twin-engined?caused havoc in Poland and Holland, and smashed the way for the hordes of Nazi

troops that poured into France. That was before

they met up with the R.A.F. in a big way. As

an R.A.F. official told me the other day, "Kent is

practically knee-deep in them."

One of the R.A.F. mechanics working on them

said to me : "Aye, they don't send many of these

over now."

One Ju. 88 in another hangar had a plate on it

showing that it was only delivered from the factory

on September 7, 1940. It was shot down in Kent

on September 15, the day the R.A.F. got 185

enemy machines. It was a brand-new machine,

well made, of the very best materials, and hardly

damaged.

A number of poor old Messerschmitt 109's stood,

dejected-looking, in a corner of a hangar. When

the war started these were the cannon-firing machines that were going to ?role the skies on the Western Front,? as Uncle Hermann put it.

The Hurricane lighter squadrons attached to the Advanced Air Striking Force in Franco shot them down like clay pigeons. They were such a flop that early this year the Messerschmitt 110 appeared on the scene. Now here was a good fighter, with its twin engines and increased armament.

The C ,-in-C. of the R.A.F. in France offered a dinner to the Hurricane pilot who brought down the first Me. 110. It was won by Flight Lieut.

Walker, of No. 1 Squadron stationed at Vassincourt, who was leading a patrol with two sergeant-pilots when the first Hurricane versus Me. 110 clash took place near Metz. Because of the team work of his sergeants, Flight Lieut.

Walker was able to get on the tail of one of these new Nazi fighters and?wham !?down it came.

The gallant young officer refused to accept the C.-in-C. s dinner unless the two sergeants were included. They were, and Air Marshal Str A. 8 Barratt sent a special plane to fly them to Paris.

Since then, hundreds of Me. 110?s have fallen to the R.A.F. Those I saw yesterday were improved types from the first batch tried out on the Western Front, and a young R.A.F. pilot who

has been flying them told me that they were
"very, very good machines." But again, I say,
they aren't good enough for the combination of
British workmanship and R.A.F. pilots.

On one Me. 110 I saw 11 miniature R.A.F.
distinguishing circles and two French Air Force
circles painted on the rudder. Thirteen had been
an unlucky number for that Nazi! I also saw on
the rudder of an Me. 109) 16 strokes with the
letter I after them (presumably Poles) and eight
strokes with F (French' at the end. The letter
B wasn't there.

The prize Nazi aircraft at this R.A.F. "drome
is a big twin-engined Heinkel III. bomber, intact
to the last rivet? Goring's new "pride," I was
told about this : "Quite a decent ship. Made of
the very best materials. Easy to fly, but "with
certain disadvantages that our bombers haven't
got." It has more instrument dials than our
bombers, and before it could be flown an interpreter wrote English labels for them. Some very
interesting gadgets indeed were found in the
bomber, particularly in the navigation line.

A further interesting piece of equipment
salvaged from another Heinkel! 111. was a portable
radio set complete with a kite for taking up an
aerial. When operated it flashes an automatic
SOS on certain wavelengths. The set was part

of a portable dinghy equipment, and as it is the only one of its kind found in any German aircraft shot down over Britain, the R.A.F. presume that some 'big shot' must have been in the crashed 'plane. As the radio engineer said to me : 'Pity it wasn't Goring.'

The total value of the Nazi 'planes I saw. not including the bits and pieces of 'planes on the scrap-heap. was well over £1,000,000. let they totalled only one squadron of the 140 Nazi squadrons shot down over Britain since August II.

This choice exhibition of Nazi aircraft that can still fly is in the care of the Ministry of Aircraft Production. It must gladden Lord Beaverbrook's heart to see it.'Daily Mail. 3.10.40.

AUXILIARY FIREMAN CROSS IS CARRYING ON.

Reginald Cross, of the Auxiliary Fire Service, went out with the brigade yesterday to tackle incendiary bombs at a south-east town.' No man in the brigade worked with greater keenness.

The day before, a high explosive bomb fell on his home. It killed his wife. It killed his twelveyear-old daughter. It seriously injured his son, aged ten. Auxiliary Fireman Cross was away from home, on duty. Later he was told what had happened. Later still, he learned that his son had died in hospital.

He said to his friends in the fire brigade :

?I've just got to carry on.? Yesterday he reported for duty as usual.?Daily Express, 7.10.40.

A.A. GUNNERS IN TRAINING.

How the crews of anti-aircraft guns are trained for their exacting work was illustrated on a visit to a Royal Artillery school in Wales where instructors are trained and experimental work in this form of defence against air attack is carried on. Of particular interest was the special work which women of the A.T.S. are undertaking.

At this school the staff specializes in every type of anti-aircraft weapon and prediction instrument.

The engagement of aeroplanes by anti-aircraft fire offers special difficulties, chief of which are the height of the object and the speed at which it travels. The predictor helps the gunlayer to overcome the second of these two difficulties, and provided, that the instrument can be fed with the correct height, it will tell the men at the gun the distance ahead of the aeroplane to which the shell should be fired so that aeroplane and projectile coincide as nearly as may be necessary to score a hit.

The weapons seen in action against a target towed by the R.A.F. were the 40 mm. quick-firer, better known as the Bofors, whose two-pounder predicted fire was directed against a target flying at 1,000 ft. This gun is employed against lowflying aircraft and the dive-bomber in particular.

It is difficult to provide the gunners in training with targets to give a realistic dive-bombing effect, and all practice firing must be lateral. The Bofors gun was seen to place 12 rounds close to one target and it was also seen in action against a towed vessel supposed to represent a tank. but because conditions made it necessary for this target to be engaged at a much longer range than that at which the gun would probably open fire in actual warfare, it was not easy to assess the probable damage which would have been inflicted on the armoured vehicle.

The medium A.A. gun is the mobile 3.7in., which operates at a greater height than the Bofors. This gun has all the details for laying worked out by a predictor, while the height, of the target is supplied by another instrument. The target engaged on this occasion was flying at 5,600 ft. but when towed targets are engaged at the greater altitude the safety margin for the aeroplane is sometimes a factor that creates a handicap. The static 4.5in. Vickers is the heaviest anti-aircraft gun in British service, and it was obvious that the larger projectile, with its considerably greater explosive force when fired at a range of 6,000 ft., inflicted proportionately the greatest damage of all the weapons seen in action.

By means of the Kine theodolite a record is made of every round fired, its proximity to the target, and its probable effect. Students are thus able to analyse the practical side of their work and discover errors made in prediction and laying generally.

An interesting feature of this complicated apparatus, worked in pairs from a central controlling table, is that it is operated entirely by women of the A.T.S. They worked without male supervision and they give instruction to the male student. Both the officer and her warrant officer wear the white cap bands of the artillery instructor and the detachment wears the white lanyard of the Royal Artillery.

Already it is chilly work standing on the exposed flat behind the gun positions, but the women, none of whom has had previous experience with surveying instruments, like it and carry out their duties with exacting thoroughness. Their work does not end with a shoot, for afterwards they must take home the records they have made and devote the evening to working out the results for the classes on the following morning. The Times, 1.10.40.

DECLINE OF FASCISM.

Perhaps the most striking paradox which this war has yet produced is the disastrous effect of the downfall of France upon the fortunes of Italian Fascism.

Given the gangster mentality of Mussolini, it

seemed obvious that France's emergency would be taken as Italy's opportunity. With France defeated Il Duce would collect the plunder—Corsica, Nice, Jibuti and possibly a good deal more besides—and a great Fascist empire, linked together by the exclusively Italian Mediterranean, would be permanently established.

The initial fallacy in the Italian's calculation was that he could secure a rich prize at a bargain rate when dealing with a fellow gangster who was stronger and more cunning than himself. Instead of fighting France when she was still formidable, he waited around the corner while the decisive blows were being struck then—running up at the last moment—expected to be allowed to rifle at least, one victim's pockets. It was not only contemptible but also a very risky game, for all depended on whether the real conqueror of France would find it convenient to pay an excessive reward for assistance which had been of little account.

As things turned out he has not found it convenient and in consequence the prestige of Fascism upon which the continued existence of the regime depends is being rapidly undermined by humiliation after humiliation. There is worse to come.

When France lay stunned and prostrate after the military debacle there appeared to be few, if any, obstacles to hinder Germany from exploiting French resources, carving up the French Empire and gaining control of the French Navy. Laval was a

willing tool, Petain preferred "co-operation" with an orderly dictatorship to a return to party-politics and the nation was sunk in apathy and despair.

Two new factors then began to complicate the situation. The aged marshal began to demur when Laval on Hitler's behalf started to press for the only sort of "cooperation" between the weak and the strong that the Germans understand, namely, total surrender and prostitution. That in itself was serious enough, for Laval is hated in France while Petain is deeply respected; but a second factor emerged which transformed the position.

The decisive victory of the British against the German air offensive in August and September, followed by the German failure to launch their invasion of Britain, by the steady growth of British land and sea power in the Eastern Mediterranean and virtual unanimity in the United States on giving all possible material help to the allies, gave rise to the dawning of a hope among the French that Britain might be able to survive and ultimately conquer the power which had crushed them. The accumulation of reliable evidence indicates that this hope is now shared by some eighty per cent, of the population of France and that pro-British sentiment is growing in direct ratio with this new-found confidence.

Hitler has a problem of increasing difficulty on

his hands. It behoves him to "go easy" both in his treatment of Metropolitan France and the French Colonial Empire. In occupied France German troops have earned the bitter epithet of "les mangeurs" (the eat-alls) and resentment against the wholesale stripping of the country of raw materials and foodstuffs may be expected to grow as winter advances. In dealing with the French Empire Hitler is obliged to proceed with even greater circumspection. General Weygand is in French North Africa and is known to be even more opposed than Petain to a "peace" with Germany which would sell these territories to the enemy. A false step here might well provoke an explosion in France itself which would destroy the Vichy Government as an instrument of Nazi policy and imperil German plans in North Africa.

The immediate German reaction has been to restrain Spanish ambitions with regard to Tangier and French Morocco (which incidentally weakens Germany's efforts to draw Spain into the war) and also to withdraw German support of Italy's territorial claims against France.

Mussolini accordingly found himself in the position of having dragged an unwilling country into an unpopular war which is inflicting increasing privations upon the people for the sake of gains which have been snatched away in the hour of victory. What could be more damaging to Fascist

prestige at home and abroad than the humiliating fact that Germany finds it more valuable to placate Vichy than Rome?

The cold fact is that Italy has ceased to be an asset of any considerable importance to the Reich and is rapidly becoming a liability. As long as France was fighting the Italians rendered valuable service by holding down three French army corps in the south. After Germany had defeated France single-handed Mussolini could still have justified his existence as an Axis partner by using his navy and army in Libya to drive the British from the Eastern Mediterranean. The navy was left in port and Graziani, after months of careful preparations, has not only not launched his attack on Egypt, but has suffered a very serious defeat at the hands of the British. Finally the attempt to secure cheap compensation by overrunning Greece has produced the worst humiliation of all, resounding defeat at the hands of a nation which was regarded as militarily insignificant. How long will the Italian people continue to endure a regime which (at the best) can offer only survival at the price of a Rumanian subservience to the German master?

DUTCH INDIES? £27,500,000

FOR DEFENCE.

The proposed Budget for 1941 of the Netherlands East Indies provides for expenditure of nearly £55,000,000, half of which is ear-marked for strengthening of defences.

The Budget is twice as high as in normal times

but the heavy war expenditure will be covered by

increased taxation on private incomes and an exporttax on raw materials. The soundness of the Indies?

financial system is shown by the fact that it has

not been deemed necessary to economise on the

social and economic services, on salaries, or to float loans.

A group of American journalists, who recently

visited the Indies, were most impressed by what

they saw of the territory's ever-increasing defensive

powers. The Government has taken over all

armament production. £10,000,000 is to be spent

on American planes, and a purchasing committee

has been formed in the United States.

More than 200 planes will be delivered in 1940

and 1941, The loyalty and patriotism of the native

population has been made so abundantly clear that

a native militia is to be raised, which will bring

the strength of the army in Java, the most important island, to 100,000 men. Natives are being

trained as pilots, navigators, and observers, and

there is already a corps of native aircraft engineers.

The American journalists saw them assembling

Curtiss P-36 chaser planes, and over-hauling Lockheed and Glenn-Martin bombers. The navy has

ordered 100 Consolidated and Vought-Sikorsky

bombers. Many giant bombers, capable of a

sustained flight of 2,000 miles', fully loaded, are

patrolling the enormous coastline of the East Indies.

They operate from numerous secret bases, and need return to their main base only once in three months.

The American visitors saw part of the East Indian Naval Squadron,, consisting of modern cruisers, destroyers, submarines, minelayers and gun-boats.

They also saw the hundred German-made Dornier bombers, and their huge workshops, manned by native engineers and mechanics. ?Sunday Times.

OUR FIGHTERS ARE
TOUGH STUFF.

Here is the story of a Spitfire which, after probably destroying a Dornier 215 and a Messerschmitt 109, was in turn attacked by six more Messerschmitt 109's when only a few miles from the French coast.

The pilot had no chance but to cut and run.

"I reached the clouds, ? he said, ?and started for

the English coast. I was hit about three feet

forward of the tail unit, on the starboard side, which

caused a slit three feet long and cut a ruddercontrol cable. At live miles from my base I

received a shell through the crank case, which broke

the throttle control. The engine caught fire and I

switched off. I again switched on at about 1,000

feet to enable me to reach the coast. The engine

was blazing and flames and coolant liquid were

tilling the cockpit. The engine stopped over the

coast area, and I put down the wheels and flaps and

made a safe landing at my aerodrome. ?

And this is what a Hurricane did after it had been hit by cannon and machine-gun fire from a Messerschmitt 109 and half of its right aileron had been shot off. I started for home, the pilot, said, and saw a Junkers 88 being attacked. I got in one burst and then hurried off while three other Hurricanes attacked it. He caught fire and crashed to the ground. I climbed up again somehow and saw a Messerschmitt 110. I joined in the attack and got in three good bursts, one of which caused smoke to pour out. Another Hurricane also fired. We were down to about 500 feet. I fired again as he was coming towards me. He turned and crashed at a Surrev aerodrome. I landed there too. and left my Hurricane to be repaired. Manchester Guardian.

News From Malaya.

NON-EUROPEAN AIRMEN.

Mention has previously been made of the regular units, naval and military, open to Malays, with an abundance of lusty recruits offering. Now Eurasians are being given the chance to serve as soldiers in the A.A. arm of the artillery, alongside and on precisely the same terms and conditions as British soldiers. The latest development is the opening of the Air Force to recruits of any race, with the one condition that they are British

subjects. They must first pass through a Flying School which has been opened. Far more men (including some Europeans have submitted applications than can at first be accepted.

R. A. A. F.

Units of the Royal Australian Air Force, equipped with modern fighters and bombers of outstanding performance, are now stationed in Malaya.

They form, powerful reinforcements, greatly strengthening the defences. This is the first time that any Australian forces have been stationed in Malaya.

TIMBER INDUSTRIES.

Malaya might help Great Britain in her timber requirements by the establishment of local industries to manufacture wooden articles which have hitherto been imported, says Mr. J. G. Watson, Acting Director-Adviser on Forestry, in an article in the Malayan Forester. Mr. Watson also points out that the more wood used in the building of Malayan houses, the less will be the need to import cement and steel. The Forest Department, he says, strongly disputes the alleged superiority of so-called "permanent" materials over timber in the construction of houses, and holds that most of the claims made in favour of the former are based on past mismanagement and ignorance of the correct use of timber.

?(The Crown Colonist).

Notification of Air Raid Casualties.

Arrangements are being made with the Sarawak Government Agent, London, for Officers of the Sarawak Civil Service to be notified! if a near relative in Great Britain becomes a serious casualty in an air raid.

With a view to relieving the anxiety which must be felt regarding the safety of relatives in Great Britain while air raids continue, it has been decided to extend the arrangement with the Government Agent, London, to include all British people resident in this country.

Members of the public in Great Britain have been advised to carry with them their identity cards and the name and address of some person in Great Britain they would wish to be notified in the event of their sustaining serious injury in the course of an air raid. It is suggested that British people in this country should ask their relatives in Great Britain to arrange with the person so named on their identity cards that in the event of their becoming a casualty, the Government Agent at the Sarawak Government Offices, London, should be notified giving details of the name and appointment of the person in Sarawak who is to be informed.

When such a notification is received by the Government Agent, a telegram will be despatched to the Chief Secretary, Kuching, for transmission

to the person concerned.

Rubber in War-Time.

The immediate prospects of the rubber industry are not unfavourable, so long as America, who normally buys more than one-half of the world's output, continues her purchases. Thanks to her purchases for the accumulation of an emergency reserve, the industry has so far not suffered from the loss of European markets, and it will be able to continue operating at a fairly high level of its capacity and at a reasonable margin of profit, at any rate until well into next year. Moreover, the acquisition of a large reserve of rubber by the United States may act as a restraint on the production of synthetic rubber from oil, which has the backing of powerful American interests. The industry's one serious risk in the near future is the danger of a military conflict in the Far East.

? (The Economist.

American newshound to his taxi driver : ?Want to take shelter???

Taxi-man : ?No, thanks. Jerry up there is doing 300 miles an hour, and we're doing 15. If he can hit us, he's a better shot than I think he is.?

A German railway guard, receiving notice of promotion, invited his friends to celebrate his success. The company were surprised to find him downcast.

‘Why so glum, Ernst?’ they said.

‘Well’, he replied, ‘the appointment has just come through. I’m to be station-master at Hamm.’

We read in the New Statesman and Nation reports of further aid to Britain from the United States. The Civil Aeronautics Board has, we understand, decided to make airfields in Florida and Texas available for training Canadian pilots during the winter when flying will be curtailed in the Dominion by weather. This, as the New Statesman and Nation points out, opens up an intriguing prospect of American citizens, enrolled in the Royal Air Force, training in their own country to fight. Hillier. The New York wits call this ‘neutrality with knobs on’!

A U.S.A. observer visited a R.A.F. station somewhere in England on a quiet day and was invited to try-out a Spitfire. He took the air and unexpectedly met a Messerschmitt squadron in the clouds. He shot down one machine and then landed safely remarking ‘that his neutrality was not seriously impaired.’ (The Straits Times 9.12.40.)

‘From the North of England I hear that, a man has been standing at a street corner with a placard : ‘Give sixpence to the Spitfire fund and I will listen

to the story of 'how you were bombed' ?

(The New Statesman and Nation.)

Letters from Home.

Meanwhile, the bombing continues. But we are

absolutely thrilled with the exploits of our Air

Force. Time and again the reports of our successes have sounded so remarkable, that one has

been tempted to wonder whether the official

bulletins could be relied upon. But I have

absolutely no doubt, from what I have heard, that

they are entirely accurate, and, if anything, a good

deal too conservative. And, indeed, this is now

proved by the obvious failure of the aerial

'blitzkrieg' and the abandonment by the

Germans of all their original tactics. They now

concentrate on night-bombing. If it is not

deliberately indiscriminate, well, all I can say is?

they must be damned poor shore ! Of course they

have done widespread damage, but not intensive

damage, that is to say?there are wrecked homes

all over London?but you can still walk through

London for considerable distances without seeing

anything at all of the effects of the raids. But

the behaviour of the people is the most remarkable.

I would never have believed the average man in

the street could adapt himself so rapidly to such

an unprecedented situation. Londoners actually

seem to be so 'blast-' that they do not trouble to

take cover even when they hear bombs dropping !

Simply because the odds that the next bomb

will hit you personally seem so remote. The

hospitals have all had a bad time. You will

perhaps have read that Thomas's has had several

hits?and the first block (at the end of Westminster Bridge) has been partly demolished. I

am sure that the people of London will not give

in on grounds of terror ! Actually, more serious

than this is the question of shelter and food and

the prevention of epidemics in the winter. But

these problems are being vigorously tackled now, We have grown used to the syren and the

sound of explosives. Indeed I sometimes fancy

we should miss them if they ceased. We sleep

in our clothes and I undress to shave and bath in

the mornings and I think it suits me better than

the old fashioned style we cut our weeklybutter ration into seven equal parts. It?s marvellous

what one can do with $\frac{4}{7}$ of an ounce. I had

no notion it went so far. Won?t we save pounds

after the war! The same with tea. I can make

a full pot with one teaspoonful?the thing is to

let it stand long enough. To-day I was in the

town waiting for a bus. A sailor was also waiting

and asked me if the bus went to Maldon. I said

no, there?s no bus there for at least an hour and

three quarters. He said he was just home from

the China Station and wanted to get to his home at

Heybridge and seemed sad to have to wait. So I

said 'come home with me and I'll take you'. He

did and I got out the car and ran him home.

I asked if he knew the "Herald". Yes, he

said. "I served in her awhile." He also said

he had been to Sarawak and was most interested

when I told him I had a son and daughter-in-law

in that country.

... I was having dinner the other night with

some friends who live in a house down way-. It

is a large block, thank God, because the bombs

that night seemed to be falling like rain about us,

and one caught the fiat, and went right smack into

the shelter, dropped in the garden and then into

a corner of the building. I'm afraid some people

were killed. I was on the fourth floor and, Oh

Boy, when that crash came we were all knocked

onto the floor with the plates, etc., but apart from

the windows all being broken we were all unhurt.

After that I jump now when a door slams.....

» ? ? ?

.... One of my canteens had a basinfull the

other night, and my colleague and I were flung

onto the floor with a blazing hurricane lamp on

top of us and masses of broken glass. My arm is

cut up to the shoulder and her face got a bit

burned before we could put out the lamp, but it

wasn't too bad and after a couple of stiff whiskies

at the pub we recovered enough to laugh at our
abject terror, The men were no help at all as
they all had to stand-to in case of incendiaries. . . .

9

.... This is a very strange, country in these
days, and in spite of all the unpleasant things that
are happening daily and nightly to so many people.
I do think that the absence of apprehension
amongst those who have so far escaped is quite
extraordinary.

In our 'peaceful country retreat' we get
continual visits from our neighbours across the
Channel, and during the past fortnight the
periods of alerts have far exceeded the times
between the "all-clear" signal and the next alarm.

I am writing from it now. We nearly got
collected about a fortnight ago by a heavy bomb
which made a 40-foot crater forty yards from the
back of the house at 3 in the morning. We were
all wakened by a loud howling noise, immediately
followed by a shock as if the house were a ship
suddenly hit by a heavy sea on the beam. Then,
in my own case, the ceiling crashed on top of me
in bed, so I got the wind knocked out of me, and
thought (in the dark), that the whole roof had
collapsed, and that I was completely pinned down,
as I could hardly breathe. When I had got my

wind again, and extricated myself from the plaster, I couldn't find my trousers or electric torch or anything, as everything was buried under the ceiling, so after groping about a bit the only thing to do seemed to be to shut my curtains, which I had opened before retiring, and get a light on.

One of the chief warnings one has is to refrain from showing any light, in the excitement of the moment, in a house that has suffered, as its likely to invite a return visit.

But nothing happened when I switched on. as the bomb had cut the cable, and then A-----appeared with a torch from her room next door, and I managed to find my trousers, and all was well.

Her ceiling had partly fallen also, but had missed her bed. Up to this time. I had imagined that most of the house had collapsed, and that I must probably be the only survivor, but the strange thing about it was that no one got hurt. I got off with rather sore ribs, and a rather badly bruised arm, but I can hardly feel it now.

One encouraging feature is the extraordinarily slight damage that is done considering the amount they loose off. Thuds indicating that eggs have been dropped in the vicinity are a nightly occurrence, but most of them drop in the open country. The other night there was a line of 17

put down, for some reason, right across open country. But so far the one here is the biggest dropped in this neighbourhood. The effect of the blast was terrific on some of the outbuildings, but they saved the house from any structural damage. About half the windows broken, and a lot of tiling blown off. etc., but happily we managed to get hold of a builder who was able to make it a "priority? job. and A----- and 1 can now go to bed without seeing the stars through the holes in our ceilings.....

.... You will have heard that S-----got damaged by the overturning of his Green Line 'bus in a tank trap. Its lucky he didn't get killed, and in spite of a very humorous letter he wrote to me about it, he must have had an awful shock. Apparently the ?bus was thrown right over, and he hurt his month rather badly, and had a very large man on top of him bleeding all over him.....

I expect 1 told you in a previous letter that I was going to be a Wren, Well 1 was all set for that and due to report at Portsmouth for duty, and had a railway warrant and all when (naval husband) on the telephone from somewhere on the coast said ?Hold everything?Don't be a Wren?. So 1 wired and put the chaps off

wondering what had bitten him. Next day a letter from.....explained that a friend of his in a destroyer just in port after 6 whole months at sea had been unable to see his wife (who was a Wren) for five minutes because they didn't choose to let her have leave then !

On the whole, as our gallant press assures everybody, the spirit of the British people is wonderful.

The real Cockney is magnificent??Let the b-----s come. The more they come, the more we?ll shoot them down?. And it takes courage to say that when your little all has gone.....

In this house chaos reigns supreme I Poor old ----- (her mother) has got a mother and 2 kids from Limehouse, poor devils whose home has been destroyed AND a family of French people whose flat in south Kensington is awaiting annihilation at the hands of a time bomb ! They turned up here after a soul-sickening day of finding every hotel, pub, caf and boarding house full up?no houses left empty?and seemed so utterly beaten she hadn?t the heart to send them away. They have the drawing room, a bedroom ami the spare room that you slept in and we have what little remains?namely the dining room and my bedroom ! A-----and B----- sleep oh camp beds in the hall because they are afraid of bombs and I go on as if nothing bad happened, because I feel after

all if you are destined for one of Goering's
bunches of bananas?that is that?so what?
..... I expect by now lie (a pilot in the
Ark Royal) is off again to give the Icecream
gents something to go on with. He has a very
poor opinion of the Italian machines. Get them
with one burst and they crumple up. He got a
four-engined bomber with one burst and it broke
up bit by bit, the four engines going down one
after another, and the four occupants, two without a parachute and two on one. The Petty
Officer who always flies with him shouted, "Look
at the b.....s going down. Sir." K . . . says
that his gunner's language is sometimes priceless.
He gets very excited and K . . . had to caution
him on one occasion as he nearly shot their rudder
off. He always apologises to K . . . for his
language when they get down !

Sarawak War Effort Fund and
China Relief Fund.

SIBU.

The members of (he Malay Union Club staged
"Old Story of Sarawak" on the 29th and 30th
November at their Club premises in aid of The
Sarawak War Effort Fund and China Relief Fund.

The play was a. great success?thanks to the
ungrudging and spontaneous Support of the members and the Club patrons.
The children of some members played a part in

the success of the show.

Thanks are due to the musicians, and mention must also be made of the assistance rendered by Messrs. P. C. Cobbold, Ling Khai Cheng, Nizam and Khoo Ah Nong.

Total nett proceeds amounted to \$324.63. This amount has been equally divided between the two funds.

The Sarawak Association, London, has made a contribution of £100 to the Sarawak War Effort Fund.

SARAWAK (FIRST) LOTTERY

in aid of

THE WAR EFFORT FUND.

The draw for the Sarawak (First) Lottery will take place at the Lilian Theatre, Kuching, at 11 a.m. on January 27th, 1941, (Chinese New Year).

Malaya Patriotic Fund.

WOMEN'S SECTION.

A further 160 knitted garments have been sent to Singapore including Jerseys, Pullovers, Scarves, Socks, Helmets and Gloves. The following letter from Lady Thomas to Mrs. L. D. Kennedy will show how much these garments are appreciated at home.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

SINGAPORE,

13th December, 1940.

While we were in England I took the opportunity of visiting the various places to which comforts from Malaya are sent, and I am sure you will be encouraged to know how much they are appreciated.

The Depot for the Navy knitted garments spoke very highly of the things that had been sent, and also told me that they want all that can possibly be sent for the coming winter, especially pullovers with long sleeves and high necks, gloves and balaclava helmets.

They send them to Battleships, Cruisers, Minesweepers, Trawlers and auxiliary craft of all sorts; I must say that when we were coming across the Pacific the cold was intense, and we kept picturing what it must be like to have to stand on the bridge day and night exposed to very much more severe cold, and of course when ships are torpedoed although many of the men may be saved, they have lost all they possess and have to be completely refitted.

The Depot for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families is doing splendid work and is wonderfully well organised. They have rooms where secondhand clothes are sorted and selected, others where new garments are made. There is a buying department which buys clothes, blankets, etc., with the money that is sent, and another where complete sets of baby clothes are packed ready to be sent to

mothers who otherwise would find it hard to get anything at all, and the letters of thanks received have been most touching. They are so delighted to have attractive pretty things to give their children which they could not afford themselves, and also it makes all the difference to the men to feel their wives are cared for while they are away.

When a large number of cases arrived Mr. Cator asked me if I thought you would like to give them to the people in London who had lost their homes through bombing, and I was sure you would wish this, so they were sent off and most gratefully received. As you can realize the things we can send now are of such varied kinds, and so badly needed, that we cannot do too much, and it is only a very small price to pay for the comfort and luxury we are all able to live in out here.

At home, though people are all as cheerful and brave and confident as possible, the normal way of living has to be completely altered. One lives from day to day, and every one is helping in some way or other.

If people live in safe areas they fill their houses with women and children from the more dangerous places. If they are in the places that are being bombed, they are all ready to take in people and look after them, and to drive ambulances, in fact

no one thinks any more of their own comfort, but of how they can help each other.

As you may imagine the women at home have not much time to spend in knitting and sewing, although you see people in shops and buses and indeed everywhere with a sock or something which they are knitting in their spare moments.

Out here where we have so much leisure and so few interruptions it is up to us to work all we can and send as much home as we possibly can manage, and I am sure everyone is more than willing to do this.

It is a great pleasure to come back and find how hard everyone is working and I am sure it will encourage them to know how very much everything that is sent is appreciated.

We cannot do too much to help those wonderful men who are giving up their lives and everything to keep us safe. And if we can relieve a little of their anxiety by helping their wives and children while they are away, I am sure none of us will grudge the time and expense in providing all we can for them.

I am glad to see that another branch of work has been started out here to make warm pullovers and gloves for the women who are in the various services at home. They have very little time

themselves, and I know that last winter a great many of them were in most exposed positions, driving ambulances, etc., and very often sleeping in cold shelters at night, and they are thankful for farm knitted pullovers, etc.

I did not actually see the Army Depot which is at Reading, but I heard that they appreciated our things very much indeed, and as the Army expands, more and more things are necessary. As all the officers and men on service wear battle dress, it does not matter whether high or low necked pullovers are made, both will be wanted and for the winter long sleeves are most welcome.

And now let me end with something about the Red Cross. My husband and I visited the depot, and my husband also saw Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode who is at the head of the whole organisation. They told us that the bandages, pyjamas and all the things we had sent had all been most useful.

Owing to the great loss of materials in Belgium and France, they had had very heavy demands for stores of all kinds, and in addition have been asked to meet the needs of air raid victims.

They send parcels of food, comforts and various necessities to our prisoners of war, and are spending £1 million a year on this alone. They need therefore every penny, and every article of equipment that they can get.

Sir Philip Chetwode was particularly anxious that Malaya should help the troops in Egypt and the Middle East owing to the difficulty of getting supplies to them from England, and my husband cabled this to Malaya with a list of requirements which I am glad to see is being worked to. Every one at home is helping and I do not think there is a village in England however small that has not a working party.

MARGUERITE THOMAS.

Astana Vegetables.

Not so long ago if one succeeded in producing a few scraggy apologies for lettuce in an old box it was considered quite an achievement. During the last four months over two thousand excellent lettuce have been grown and distributed from Astana gardens. A brief description of the method of growing these lettuce may encourage others to grow them too when it is seen how easily this can be done and what a great asset they are to one's table.

Three varieties of lettuce do very well in Sarawak; these are: (i) Mignonette, (ii) Cos, and (iii) Iceberg, The most popular is Mignonette but the other two will grow equally well.

Excellent seed is obtainable by post from Po Gardens, Ipoh, F.M.S. Having obtained seed,

planting is done in shallow zinc trays. These can be obtained from any tin-smith in the bazaar at about 35 cents each. The trays should be filled with fine burnt earth and the seed sprinkled evenly over it and then covered with a very thin layer of more burnt earth. Watering must be done with a very fine nozzle or a large garden syringe, the trays should be protected from heavy rain and placed so that they get the morning sun. Germination should have taken place in 2 or 3 days. Water carefully with a fine spray in the early morning and in the evening and see that the seedlings are not exposed to the sun after 9.30 a.m.

When the seedlings are about half an inch high they should be thinned out. A pair of watchmaker's tweezers (8 cents) will be found most helpful for this operation. After thinning out the seedlings should be left in the trays for about ten days until they have attained a height of one and a half inches, they are now ready for planting out in prepared beds "(bakut), posts, boxes, etc. If planted out in beds protection must be given against heavy rain, this is best achieved with a permanent thatched shelter about 4 to 5 feet above the beds, as much light as possible should be allowed while excluding heavy rain. A sprinkling of rock phosphate (procured from the Agricultural Department) round the plants once a week will stimulate good growth but this is not essential

and if the beds, etc., are carefully prepared results will be perfectly good. The time taken from germination until the lettuce are ready for the table is 5 to 6 weeks, the plants are quite hardy and can be grown on a rotation so that lettuce are always available. First lettuce was picked on 28th June and since then to nearly December more than 2500 plants have been collected and distributed.

A final word about Tomatoes and Chillies. Do not be put off by the superstition prevalent in the Service that whoever plants tomatoes is immediately transferred to another station. If everyone plants tomatoes they, will become interchangeable even if the Secretariat decide on a General Post every three months which is hardly likely. Try Ponderosa, a large Australian variety, it is very fleshy and almost seedless and single fruit will weight up to 10 ozs. The fruit in the early stages is rather addicted to "black spot? disease, but this variety fruits abundantly so there is little loss from this,

Various kinds of Chillies have been grown for pickling and of them all Sutton's Long Bed have proved the best. It is a heavy cropper and compares very favourably with the local bazaar chillie. Bull-nose Chillies and Capsicums have been tried also, but proved rather disappointing, the plants are very prone to a root fungus which causes

"damping off" when the fruit are half formed.

?(Contributed.)

Padi Planting.

The Director of Agriculture mentions in his report for November, 1940, that expectation of a padi crop remains good on the whole. Isolated pest damage has been reported from various centres, but no locality appears to be likely to suffer serious failure.

Areas in the Munggu Babi neighbourhood, and the ulu Sadong region, were reported to be dying from pest attack, but inspection showed that there was no pest or disease present, the condition being due merely to insufficient cultivation and dry weather after planting, and the incidence of wet weather resulted in good recovery.

The visit to the Munggu Babi area disclosed that there is apparently ample good wet padi land between the Ulu Sungei Bukar and Ulu Sungei Serin for all Dayak kampongs here, if good cultivation and proper water control can be introduced. It will be necessary to make a fairly comprehensive survey to ascertain the best method of utilising the water supply.

A visit to the Bukit Tengkalat area above

Saratok, where bunded farming has made considerable progress this year, showed that, without exception, this is the best farming effort in the country. The three "doors" which started operations, following visits about 6 years ago to the terraced padi land at the 12th Mile Agricultural

Station, and to other countries, have made a most intelligent use of their experience, and both the water supply and the terracing of the land at the head of the valley must have entailed a considerable amount of hard work.

Now that many more "doors" are joining the pioneers, and it is desired to bring in all available land in the valley, some of the water courses are found to be wrongly sited and cut too deep. A method of stopping up the water by stops in the channel was explained. This, and a tendency to cut too many drains and too deep, were the only points of criticism found, and applied only to the new area.

Other areas will give results equal to Bukit Tengkalat, and it is doubted whether the latter can compete with the Dayak area at Rantau Panjang for yield; but, considering the terrain and the absence of technical advice, the effectiveness and neatness of the work at Bukit Tengkalat is most striking.

The importance of sowing dates is illustrated by the conditions at Tanjong Bijat, where early sown padi is now looking very well. Those farming in the Tawang-Stumbin area sowed later than the down-river farmers, and many of these later-sown nurseries, or fields of young transplanted padi,

have been destroyed by salt water flooding. Some have made three attempts to plant, and a few have now abandoned the attempt to farm this year.

Some success has attended meetings held at Kanowit and Lundu well before the farming season, when dates were fixed after free discussion, and the importance of communal agreement and working was emphasized, and it is suggested that such meetings could, with advantage, be made a regular feature for all districts.

First Division News.

NOVEMBER. 1940.

The District Officer, Upper Sarawak, reports that the production of gold for the month of October, 1940, was 1,059 ounces, and the price per fine ounce \$69.65.

The Travelling District Officer, First Division, reports as follows :?

Probationary Native Officer Michael Sadin and Up-river Agent Manju (both Land Dayaks) were called down to Kuching and an elementary course in simple Agricultural, Health and Hygiene work was arranged for them with the kind co-operation of the Chief Health Officer and the Director of Agriculture in order that they may be better fitted to give useful advice to the Land Dayaks. Both these officers were recruited as part of the approved scheme for re-organising Land Dayak administration.

Serian. A nasty accident occurred at Kampong

Fichin, near Tebakang, when the Native Officer-in-Charge, Abang Zamhari, was giving a lecture in the village. The "pancha" or communal hall, a building with a floor some twenty feet above ground level, collapsed under the weight of those who had crowded in to listen, killing one Dayak and injuring a number of others, in spite of the efforts of the Native Officer, who himself suffered minor injuries, and the village headmen to limit the numbers. Collapsing of the flooring in Land Dayak houses is not uncommon, but the "pancha" are usually made strong enough to stand the stresses of the weight of large congregations.

Agriculture. It is distressing to note the reports of damage to young padi from Lundu and Serian. It is understood from the Director of Agriculture that the pests reported from Lundu are not serious and largely confined to certain individual plots which have now received attention from the agricultural inspector stationed there. This, as well as the trouble reported from Serian, is wholly due to an unreasonable spell of dry weather and will right itself as soon as there is enough water on the land.

Village Land Councils. Further progress has been made. The major activities have been in the Samarahan where sketch maps of the land

claimed by all the village councils there have been completed and passed to the Land Office.

The Native Officer-in-Charge, Kuching, reports that the Master and the Chin-chew of m.v. Kejang were fined \$20.00 each, under Section 3 (a) of Order C?12 (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) 1937, for permitting pigs to be loaded on board ship in two layers so as to cause suffering to those in the lower layer and for aggravating the suffering by permitting heavy packages being thrown from the jetty on top of the pigs.

The Secretary for Native Affairs reports that Hari Raya was celebrated on Saturday the 2nd, the usual salute of fourteen guns being fired from Fort Margherita. His Highness the Rajah paid the usual Hari Raya calls on the Datus.

The ?Sekolnh Igama? (Religious School) was opened in Kuching In the Trustees of the India Street Mosque on the 17th, at the expense of this Mosque out of the Mosque Fund. This is the first religions school ever introduced in Sarawak.

Several petitions were received from the Sarawak Mohammedan Club and Indian Muslims against the opening of this school at the expense of the Mosque which was, in their opinion, forbidden according to the Mohammedan Law.

This matter was referred to Datu Haji Mohidin,

His Highness the Rajah's Representative, who informed the petitioners that it is clearly laid down in the "Kuran" which states that it was the wish of the Holy Prophet Mohamad to teach all Mohammedans the "Igama Islam," irrespective of nationality.

Datu Hajj Mohidin added that the Mosque Fund could be used for this purpose and therefore he considered that the petitioners created an unwarranted obstruction towards the opening of this school.

Kuching Rotary Club.

The monthly Dinner Meeting was held at the Lilian Restaurant on Saturday, 14th December, 1940. The President, Rtn Khan Ah Chong presided.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. E. M. Marjoribanks, the Vice-President of the Club and Chairmen of the Community Service Committee.

He spoke on the local services that had been undertaken and some that needed to be kept going.

Among the important items he specially mentioned were :?

1. Education. The Club was agitating for higher education up to Senior Cambridge for the local children so that they could stand a better chance of being employed locally and elsewhere.

The appeal had been favourably received by the Director of Education who was hopeful that

Government might assist.

2. Blood Transfusion.?The speaker explained that this was very much needed not only in time of war but also in peace time. Illustrations of other places were given and an appeal for as many donors as possible was made. In this connection of saving lives the speaker mentioned that out of the first batch of students for First Aid Nursing, over 80% had passed examinations and their Certificates had been received from home. An early opportunity would be taken to hand over the Certificates to the recipients,

3. Books and Periodicals for the troops in Singapore.?An appeal was made to the members. One big case from a few Rotarians had already been sent over by the Sarawak Steamship Co., Ltd., free of charge.

4. Road Safety.?A sub-Committee had been appointed to go into the means of teaching the public on this matter.

Club News.

A sporting event of some magnitude took place at the Sarawak Club on Christmas morning when ten of the "regular" bowlers played for a prize given by the Hon?ble Mr. J. B. Archer.

A Committee of ladies had kindly consented to divide the players into two teams labelled "Goodlooking Chaps" and "Uglies.?? We shall never understand the female brain, but it must be

recorded with astonishment that Digby and Archer were in the "Good-looking Chaps" whilst Jacques and Taylor, whose looks nobody will deny, were in the "Uglies"! The captains were Jacques and Archer and in spite of their obvious handicaps (physically and morally) they turned out to be the winner and runner-up respectively. At one time it looked as if Archer would win his own prize, but he just had the decency to avoid doing such a deplorable thing. Jacques, bowling with his usual agile leg-over-arm stroke, just managed to beat Archer, whose foot-faults and other blatant fouls were obvious to all. Amidst immense enthusiasm, the prize, a pseudo-grandfather clock with, apparently, no works, was presented to the winner. The donor had not forgotten the booby prize which went to the lowest score, A. W. Anderson.

I rather gather that he is a bachelor, but any sweet young unattached thing should know that his prize is a most useful, and, I believe, very necessary, thing for any young married couple to possess. So, now girls, don't say I didn't tell you!!

O.F.

Second Division News.

NOVEMBER, 1940.

The Hon^{ble} the Resident, Second Division, who visited Engkilili and Lubok Antu during the month, reports as follows:?

Padi crops, in both districts, looked very healthy

and all reports were most promising.

He was particularly struck with the quantity and excellence of the jagong crop at Lubok Antu, and does not remember having seen such a quantity being grown formerly.

The Director of Agriculture, Mr. C. L. Newman, together with Mr. J. G. McClelland and a large staff, arrived on the 7th, and a camp was set up at Bijat and a topographical survey commenced by the latter, and his staff for information of the Agricultural Department. The Resident understands that the Bijat scheme promises well for a large scale padi area.

The District Officer, Simanggang, reports as follows :?

With the exception of the Batang Ai Balaus, the padi prospects throughout the district are excellent, both in hill areas and in the swamp areas.

The Agricultural Assistant reports that at Simanggang final transplanting was completed at the end of the month. Heavy rain, however, caused excessive flooding, and patches of the lighter soil, consisting principally of refuse, floated about the area carrying the newly planted seedlings with At Bijat. final transplanting was completed, though seedlings from Simanggang had to be taken there to complete the work.

War Savings Certificates to the value of \$1,035 were sold during the month.

The District Officer, Belong, reports as follows : ?

On the 27th Father Stanton brought over a football team of schoolboys from Simanggang.

The match was played on the S.P.G. Mission field and resulted in a well deserved victory. for Simanggang. It is the first time that Simanggang have accomplished this feat.

From Spaoh came two reports which might have been serious. The first, a Malay named Musin had a narrow escape from being taken by a crocodile; he lost his small toe in the encounter. The second, a Dayak of Tanjong was gored by a bull; the animal has been killed.

The District Officer, Kalaka, reports, with regret, the death of Mr. Kho Ah Liap, ex-Capitan China, Rohan, on the 4th after a long illness, at the age of 85 years. He had been awarded the Long Service Decoration.

The Director of Agriculture arrived at Saratok on the 14th, and, accompanied by the District Officer, left for the Dayak wet padi farms at Tengalat on the 15th. A complete tour of the area was made. The Director of Agriculture was pleased to see the progress of the work which was carried out in such a short time by the Dayaks themselves under their Tuai Tuai Rumah.

Keen interest has been reported among the other Dayaks after the return of the Director of Agriculture. It is stated that some have cleared the main drain preparatory to commencing planting work early next year. If such is the case, it is feared that the available land will be insufficient, since those who own plots intend to increase their area next year. This, however, is dependent on the results of the crops. If the results prove to be good, they will encourage others to adopt this system of planting.

Third Division News.

NOVEMBER, 1940

The Hon'ble the Resident, Third Division, reports that the last of the outlaws, Maja, surrendered himself to the District Officer, Mukah, at Balingian on the 18th and was brought to trial in Sibu on the 26th.

He also reports, with regret, the death of Datu Abang Abdul Gapor bin Abang Tek, better known as Abang Aboi, on the 12th.

The funeral was held on the 13th and was attended by the Resident, the District Officer and the Cadet Officer in uniform as well by all the Native Officers and many others.

A Constabulary guard of honour under the command of Chief Inspector Abang Adeng was present. The late Datu was for many years the senior Native Officer at Kapit, took part in several expeditions and was an authority on Dayaks.

He retired in 1938 and was granted the title of
Datu by His Highness the Rajah in 1939.

He is survived by his widow, four sons and four
daughters.

The District Officer, Mukah, reports that Mr. H.
J. Spencer, Agricultural Field Officer, visited
Mukah and Balingian from the 10th to the 20th,
during which time he inspected land at Skoyan in
the Ulu Mukah which it is proposed to keep as an
emergency padi reserve. He also inspected land at
the Sungei Sah, Balingian, for the same purpose,
and it is understood that he considers both areas
eminently suitable for padi cultivation. Both
these sites are within easy reach of the Government
station and it is hoped that later the Agricultural
Department will be able to open up a demonstration
station at Skoyan. Suitable land for extensive
vegetable planting is difficult to find owing to the
very low-lying nature of the land round both
stations, but, as the district as a whole could be
almost self-supporting owing to its sago, the
District Officer does not think massed vegetable
planting really necessary. It could well be left to
individuals to plant their own vegetables where and
how they wish in the old haphazard fashion as a
complement only to the sago foodstuffs.

At the request of the Director of Agriculture, the

fullest information concerning the preparation of foodstuffs, of which sago forms the basis, was obtained from the local Melanaus and samples of preparation were also obtained. As Mr. Spencer happened to be visiting the district this month, the whole matter was handed over to him and he will report to the Director of Agriculture in due course.

The District Officer. Kapit, reports that news was received from the Hon'ble the Resident in the early part of the month that the arrival of a large number of Dayaks in the headwaters of the Mehakam river in Dutch Borneo had caused considerable consternation amongst the inhabitants of those parts. It is felt here that the fears of those people were groundless and the actual disturbances greatly exaggerated by report. for it is believed that the only Dayaks to have crossed over from the ulu Balleh into Dutch territory recently are those travelling on Certificates of Identity and looking for work with the European Companies there. A police patrol was, however, sent up the Balleh with instructions to turn back all they might meet on their way and to try and make touch with the military brigade ordered by the Dutch authorities, it is understood, to proceed to the area. Those Dayaks who had put in their pledges and been granted passes but had not yet left were also prevented from travelling.

The District Officer himself also proceeded to

Penghulu Temonggong Koh's house in the ulu Balleh to make enquiries and issue instructions in this connection.

It is gratifying to be able to record already the signs of an awakening of financial prosperity amongst the Belaga natives. This is due entirely to the benefits to be derived from working timber for the Borneo Company, for some 2,000 logs have been sold by the natives during the past month or two in return for which the Company must have paid out no less than \$6,000. Almost every house in the Belaga area has an agreement to work varying quantities of logs for sale to the Company, and it is understood that the Punan Bah alone have now undertaken to fulfil a contract for 1,000 logs.

The visible evidence of returning prosperity is provided by the fact that there are now five outboard motors owned by natives of Belaga.

It now seems clear that harvests of padi will vary greatly throughout the district next year. For present reports range between the two extremes of good and bad. Those Dayaks farming old jungle are heading for excellent results, but the farms are only indifferent, some being complete failures.

Rat poison supplied by the Agricultural Department is having a mixed reception. It seems without doubt efficacious, but cases have been heard of the dead rats being later consumed by dogs which have subsequently died from eating the poisoned corpses.

And, useless and mangy though many of their dogs are, the Kayans and Kenyahs do not like losing them. In this connection, the District Officer has had an amusing enquiry from a Song Dayak Penghulu as to whether it would be safe to eat any monkey that might fortunately be killed by consuming poisoned padi, provided the monkey's stomach were carefully avoided.

Fourth Division News.

NOVEMBER, 1940.

The Hon?ble the Resident, Fourth Division, reports that on the 30th a sale of work was held and resulted in a collection of over \$1,800 for the Patriotic Fund.

The District Officer, Miri. reports as follows : ?

The Native Officer-in-Charge, Niah, reports increased prosperity among the natives of his district. He finds that far more food crops have been planted this year than formerly.

Still more Dayaks from Saratok. Balingian and Kanowit arrived here during the month ?to look for work.? However, the only work they are willing to do is on jelutong and, since the jelutong ?roads? in this district are now all fully worked, there is nothing left for the Dayaks but to return to their own district. It is felt, that such Dayaks, for their own good, should be deterred from coming to Miri before, leaving their own district.

The distribution of milk by Government to the pupils of the vernacular schools at Miri, Niah and Sibuti was started during the month and is proving most popular.

Three Mohammedan Chinese, members of a goodwill mission, visited Miri during the month. They were accorded a magnificent reception by the combined Malay and Chinese communities on arrival, and they held well attended meetings in the Capitol Theatre and on the Recreation Ground.

The District Officer, Baram, states that at the end of the month reports were received from the Upriver Agents at Lio Matu and Long Akah to the effect that an epidemic had broken out amongst the Kelabits in the Kelapan and amongst the Badangs and that a considerable number of deaths had occurred. The various chiefs of the vicinity had asked for assistance to check the spread of the epidemic and for treatment to those already affected. Arrangements were made for Native Officer Tuanku Surer and Sanitary Inspector Mr. H. Brodie from Miri to go up river as soon as the latter officer arrived in Marud?.

On their return they reported that the rumour of epidemic there was unfounded and that it was the result of exaggerated rumours of sickness coming from Dutch territory.

The visit of the Native Officer and the Sanitary Inspector has, however, resulted in all paths being opened and villages and farms being no longer pantang.

The prompt assistance rendered by Government in sending this party up river has created a great impression amongst the natives of Lio Matu district.

Fifth Division News.

OCTOBER, 1940.

The Hon^{ble} the Resident, Fifth Division, reports that the news of P. Tai Langub's death in September was received during the month. It is particularly unfortunate that he should have died before the ulu Trusan scheme was started. He was very keen on the idea and his help would have been invaluable. Recommendations regarding his successor will be made after Native Officer Wan Sadi has visited the ulu Trusan. The Resident is glad to be able to report that the people of S. Begkita are really making proper bunds this year. They have done a great deal of really hard work and it is to be hoped that as a result they will reap a much better harvest than usual.

NOVEMBER, 1940.

The Hon^{ble} the Resident, Fifth Division, reports that he visited Tegarai on the 7th. The

total area under padi this year must be nearly 100 acres compared with 32 acres last year. The tali ayer has proved most efficacious and with a proper water supply work was possible here long before Penapak and S. Bengkita, which are dependant on rainfall, could be worked. There is room for further extensions next year and the enthusiasm of the Kedayans seems boundless. The padi looks very well.

A great deal of hard work has been done at Tegarai. Penapak and S. Bengkita and there can be no doubt that others will follow their example. The survey of streams and taking of levels at Tanjong Bunut continues. Present indications are that the area is ideal for a big scheme.

Padi is everywhere reported to be doing very well and it is to be hoped that the harvest will be even better than last year.

His Highness the Rajah, accompanied by Mr. G. T. M. MacBryan, arrived at Labuan on the 20th by s.s. Darvel, leaving the same day by H.H.M.Y. Maimuna for Limbang. On learning that the Hon^{ble} the Resident, Fifth Division, was in bed with influenza, His Highness decided to visit Brooketon and Lawas first, arriving at Limbang on the morning of the 25th and leaving for Labuan on the 27th. Unfortunately, the

majority of the people gathered to meet His Highness on the 20th were unable to wait, though a representative gathering of Tua Tua Kampong was present.

His Highness sat in office on the 26th and later paid a visit to the bazaar. The British Resident, Brunei, Mr. E. E. Pengilley, E.D. , M.C.S., paid an informal visit to Limbang on the 26th to meet His Highness. A number of matters were discussed during His Highness? visit.