

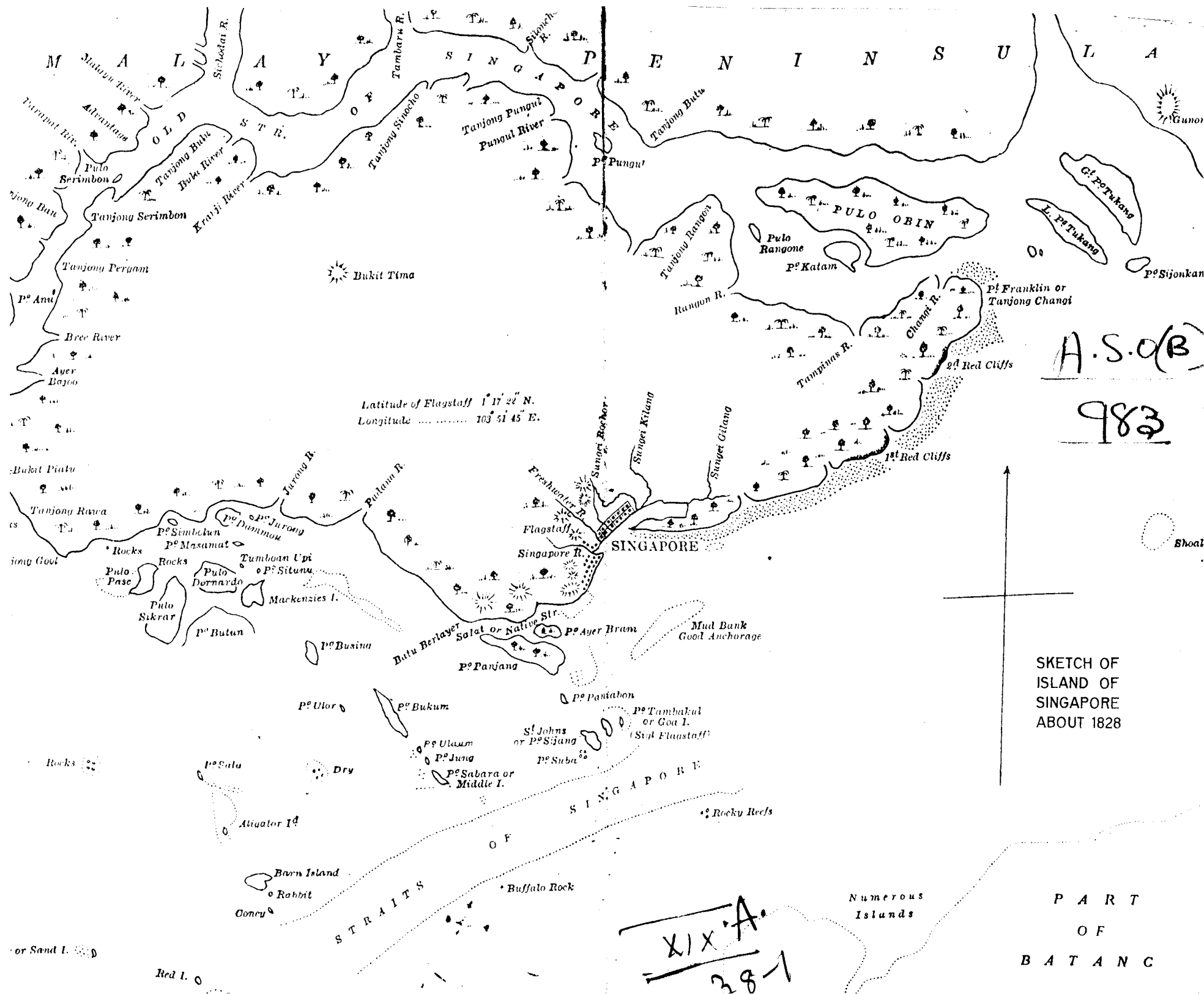


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**CITY OF SINGAPORE
ANNUAL REPORT, 1950**



COLONY OF SINGAPORE
ANNUAL REPORT, 1950 .



Raffles Place about 1905, from an oil painting in the Raffles Museum Collection.

COLONY OF SINGAPORE ANNUAL REPORT, 1950

BY

W. L. BLYTHE

Colonial Secretary



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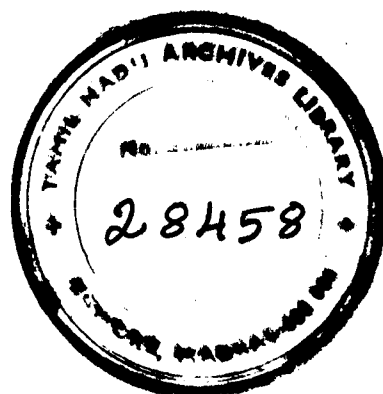
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SINGAPORE ISLAND ABOUT 1862
COLONY OF SINGAPORE, 1950

PART ONE

I

General Review of the Year

THE FIRST year of the second half of the century was one of steady progress, marred at the end by two days of tragic rioting.

The year began with the recognition in January by His Majesty's Government of the newly established Communist-dominated People's Government in Peking. This decision meant a Singapore without a Chinese Consul-General, a new phenomenon indeed. Although it was repeatedly announced that recognition of the People's Government implied no approbation of its acts or of Communism itself and no relaxation in the attack on militant Communism in Malaya, the Chinese population of Singapore for the most part found it difficult if not impossible to reconcile this apparent contradiction. There were, too, some sections of Chinese opinion which welcomed a strong Government of China irrespective of its ideology. In this first flush, the Sino-Soviet Treaty, in spite of the inexplicably prolonged negotiations preceding it, was seen as a genuine partnership of adult equals and not the baptism of a new-born satellite. On the other hand, the recognition of Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam by the Russian Government brought the sobering reflection that the rosy dawn of nationalism might be the red sky in the morning which should be the democrats' warning. The Acting Governor in public comment on recognition expressed the view of Government that 'We will not permit the new Government to attempt to interfere in our affairs or to spread propaganda by any means against the lawful authority of this Government.'

The outbreak of the Korean war in June brought no immediate local threat and, aided by the growing volume of work and wealth produced by the near-war demand for rubber and tin, public opinion was considerably confused. The consolidation of a camouflaged Communism in China, and the violent propaganda from Russian and Chinese sources against the United Nations and the United States

with whom Britain was agreed on essential purposes, conditioned the policy of the Government towards the problems of internal security and external travel and trade.

While opinion was divided on the chances of consolidation of the Bao Dai regime and of success for French arms without major concessions on political policy, the public saw Indo-China as the outer bastion of Malaya as it had been in 1941 and keenly watched events in Vietnam. Events in independent Indonesia were of more direct interest because of their repercussion on the entrepot trade of the Colony.

Most closely of all was Singapore affected by the Emergency in the Federation of Malaya, and assistance continued to be given to the Federation. For the first four months of the year and covering the Anti-Bandit Month, the Police Gurkha Contingent was on active service in Johore against the bandits, suffering one fatal casualty. All Singapore Police leave was stopped and the Volunteer Special Constabulary undertook longer duties for the period.

The local Communist threat which from the beginning of the Emergency in 1948 had been largely limited to open or illicit propaganda, turned in 1950 to violence with assault on life, property and security. Propaganda from Chinese Communist sources, though not always identical in tactics with that from Malayan Communist sources, carried the same threat of building up an alien ideology and alien loyalty and of justifying the violence which was sporadic in Singapore and virulent in the Federation of Malaya. Throughout the year steps were taken against organs of opinion relaying propaganda from Moscow or Peking.

Warnings were early given to the Press not to make themselves the vehicles and victims of Communist propaganda by quoting the rhodomontade of Radio Peking. As a certain section of the Chinese Press paid little heed to the warning, it was followed after the outbreak of war in Korea by new Emergency Regulations giving Government power to prohibit the sale and circulation of any publication of which the contents were prejudicial to the prosecution of measures to end the Emergency on either side of the Causeway or fomented opposition to the successful prosecution of any war-like operation in which His Majesty was engaged, or committed by resolution of the United Nations. One Chinese newspaper was closed for a breach of this regulation and did not exercise the right of appeal allowed it

by the Regulations. The Regulations were so framed as to make clear to the Press that they were made necessary by the Emergency and were not intended as a permanent restriction on a Press of growing stature and status. Action was also taken against a Society which was allowing itself to become the vehicle of Communist propaganda and acting against Government's policy of building up in Singapore a population of local loyalty. Similarly travel between Singapore and her surrounding territories required the fullest vigilance to prevent the spread of the Communist infection by sea-lanes and air-lanes. The discovery of Chinese Communist influence in certain major Chinese schools necessitated the closure of two schools until they could give a guarantee that their primary educational purpose was not distorted by teachers or pupils to subversive political purposes. A new Registration of Schools Ordinance gave Government increased powers to prevent similar indoctrination and infiltration.

Throughout the year underground newspapers circulated in English and the vernaculars, appealing to the intelligentsia and students, and building up, and setting up as an example, the 'heroes' of violence in the jungle. The channels of production and distribution were well hidden, and it was not till the end of the year that a number of young University graduates and undergraduates were detained on the grounds of their complicity in the production of this actively anti-British and pro-Communist terrorist literature.

The Communist threat of open violence in the Colony, after the comparative calm of 1949, was continuous. 4 murders, 40 out of 131 cases of armed gang robbery and 35 of the 152 cases of simple robbery can be attributed to the Malayan Communist Party whose chosen weapons were grenades and acid. On 29th April, an attempt was made on the life of His Excellency the Governor when a grenade was thrown at him as he was leaving a sports stadium after presenting the prizes for the Amateur Boxing Association Championship. Fortunately the grenade was split by the height of its fall on a concrete floor and Sir Franklin escaped with grazing injuries. But the tables were turned when this attempted outrage was followed within a week by the arrest not only of the men believed to be responsible for it, but of 4 members of the Singapore Town Committee of the Malayan Communist Party as they were separately leaving a committee meeting in a lonely attap-roofed house in the Geylang area. Documents which were found

proved plans for arson, assassination, sabotage, and precipitating labour trouble over a period of 14 days. The plans for that campaign were completely frustrated.

The most spectacular Communist success in the economic field was the complete destruction by fire of the Aik Hoe Rubber Factory with an estimated loss of \$12,000,000. After this fire, a group of Special Constabulary was trained to prevent arson and sabotage and was successful in doing so. One major godown was also destroyed during the year. Sixteen public omnibuses and 18 taxis were destroyed by arson; in September, 8 taxis were destroyed in one hour. Robbery of identity cards was almost endemic. Yet lack of willingness to inform the police either direct or by P.O. Box 5000 handicapped the police in taking reprisals. Completely unsuccessful, however, was the attempt described later to disrupt the plans for the Colony's first Education Week. Communist youths seriously wounded a Chinese School Inspector and threats were issued to teachers and pupils alike not to take part in the Week's activities.

Police activities were able to contain if not defeat the Communist threat. The regular and Special Constabulary were expanded, but most significant, as the events in the days of rioting were to show, was the active enthusiasm of the Volunteer Special Constables, particularly Category 'A' who undertook regular duties of night patrol in the Divisions. They are drawn from all communities and displayed Singapore loyalty and *esprit de corps* which bound them together when they were mobilised for fifteen days during and following the riots and including the Christmas Holiday period.

The readiness to accept the obligation of self-defence which is a corollary of the process towards self-government was further illustrated in the expansion of the regular and volunteer Defence Services. The Malayan Naval Force's two motor launches joined the Malayan Coastal Patrol on operational duty while the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve maintained a nightly patrol of Singapore's waters, in co-operation with the Royal Navy or the Marine Police. A Sea Cadet Corps was formed early in the year at the Junior Technical School. The Singapore Volunteer Corps doubled its membership and the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force was established. The Malayan Air Training Corps, already created, proved its value as a training ground for the senior units by providing twenty-two members for them.

During the year plans were made for a Civil Defence Organisation and for the creation of a Man-Power Bureau to register the volunteers for all branches of that Organisation.

The strategic role of Singapore which has become an international centre of growing importance is twofold: first, to hold itself as a 'firm base' for the forces fighting the Communist threat, whether in the Federation or in the wider Far East theatre; and secondly to show by its political advance and social plans and achievements the combined efforts of East and West in building a healthy liberal social structure.

During the year Singapore welcomed many distinguished visitors whose coming symbolised the importance of events in Malaya to the United Kingdom, the countries of the Commonwealth, and to the United States. In the middle of the year the Secretary of State for the Colonies, The Right Honourable James Griffiths, P.C. visited Singapore with the Secretary of State for War, The Right Honourable John Strachey. Mr. Griffiths spent five crowded days meeting the leaders of the Colony and seeing its work of defence and social expansion. His last day coincided with the King's Birthday, when he saw one of Singapore's most impressive parades, and declared open the block of flats built by the Singapore Improvement Trust from a public subscription raised to celebrate the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. He was able to repeat the assurance of His Majesty's Government that they had 'no intention of relinquishing their responsibilities in Malaya until their task is completed. The purpose of our policy is simple. We are working in co-operation with the citizens of the Federation of Malaya and Singapore to guide them to responsible self-government within the Commonwealth. We have no intention of jeopardising the security, well-being and liberty of these people for whom Britain has responsibilities by a premature withdrawal.' In the autumn a party of six Members of Parliament, drawn from the Labour, Conservative and National Liberal parties and under the leadership of Lord Listowel, visited Singapore and left with direct first-hand impressions of the Colony, its achievements and its work ahead. In June, Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, visited Singapore and was entertained by the Colony at its first Public Dinner. His visit was in itself a measure of India's friendly interest in the problems of this gateway to the Indian Ocean, and his outspoken denunciation of the effect of violent Communism in distorting the forces of nationalism

was unequivocally clear. A United States Military Mission under Mr. Griffin, and Mr. Foster of the Economic Co-operation Administration visited Singapore in the course of their tours to assess the volume and form of United States assistance in meeting the military emergency in Malaya by assistance in strategic and social defence. His Highness, The King of Thailand, while on his way to Bangkok for his Coronation, broke his journey at Singapore, and was the guest of His Excellency The Governor, while The Right Honourable Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, and the Canadian and Australian Ministers for External Affairs came to Singapore on their way to or from Commonwealth Conferences. Other distinguished visitors who stayed for some time included Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, C.I.G.S., and Lady Mountbatten in her capacity as Superintendent-in-Chief of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Politically 1950 was a year of ripening of experience in the Legislative Council, the Municipal Commission, and the Rural Board with its seven Rural District Committees. During the year, the Legislative Council met monthly and passed forty-seven separate Ordinances, apart from the discussions of its Select Committees. In the words of His Excellency the Governor, 'It gave a working example of decision by orderly public debate' and, as the first Legislative Council, 'Had played its unique part in establishing the system of Government by elected Councils in Singapore.' The increased activity of the Labour Party, which elected as its President a nominated unofficial who was also a trade unionist, maintained the welcome non-communal basis of the political parties in Singapore. The further step of increasing the number of popularly elected members from six to nine was announced, and in anticipation, the Colony was divided into nine single-member constituencies in place of the former plan of two 2-member constituencies in the Municipal area and two single-member constituencies in the rural areas. The appointment of an unofficial Vice-President of the Council was also foreshadowed. Symbolic too of the growing status and responsibility of the unofficial element in the Council was the attendance of two unofficial Legislative Councilors, Mr. R. Jumabhoy and Che Sardon bin Haji Jubir, at the inauguration ceremonies in Djakarta of the United States of Indonesia, and the selection of Mr. C. C. Tan to attend the Conference on the Colombo Plan in London in September. The Council was an active

member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. His Excellency the Governor represented the Council at the opening of the new House of Commons, while an unofficial member, Mr. P. F. de Souza, attended the Association's Conference in New Zealand.

There were parallel constitutional developments in the Municipal Commission, culminating in a formal request to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. James Griffiths, P.C., during his visit to Singapore that the Town of Singapore should be endowed with City status. The matter was given public impetus first by the visit, under British Council auspices, of Bailie MacAslan of Glasgow to discuss local Government in the United Kingdom, and later by an exchange of messages with the City of Nairobi on its receiving its City Charter. The question was then put to Mr. Griffiths, and subsequently discussed with the party of six M.Ps. who visited the Colony late in the year. In internal organisation, the Commission adopted the system of an unofficial Vice-Chairman for each of its eight Committees. Finally the Commission agreed that an expert from the United Kingdom should be invited to visit Singapore to study the whole question of Local Government in the Colony and to prepare detailed recommendations including the drafting of any legislation necessary to give effect to the recommendations.

Parallel with the development of self-government on the plane of the Legislative Council was the further application of the principles of His Majesty's Government's White Paper No. 197 on the training and promotion of locally-domiciled officers in Government Service. During the year the Public Services Commission designate was established to advise on appointments and promotions in Divisions I, II and III. and to select candidates for Departmental Scholarships. Higher Schemes of Service were passed for eighteen Services to run parallel with the Colonial Unified Services and eventually to replace them. A Permanent Examinations Board was established to arrange competitive examinations for non-graduate candidates for the Higher Schemes of Service. Eleven candidates were appointed to these Higher Schemes and many other appointments were under consideration at the end of the year. The Secretary of State for the Colonies approved the appointment of two locally-domiciled officers to the Colonial Education Service, and four to the Colonial Police Service; six local men were appointed medical officers and nine Singapore nurses were appointed to the rank of Nursing Sister.

Fourteen Scholarships were awarded at the University of Malaya and ten to Universities in Britain. Fourteen officers went on training courses to the United Kingdom under Departmental schemes and six under Colonial Development and Welfare Fund Scholarships. The 'career open to the talents' was assured to the local-born who were within the Services covered by the Schemes, on the understanding and the challenge that 'only when no local candidates are available will the Governor request the Secretary of State to recruit outside Malaya'.

The urgent fact underlying the developments of the Social Services in the Colony is the steady expansion of its population, which in 1950 for the first time exceeded a million. In education, medical plans and housing the Colony is challenged not only to provide for the new citizens, but to overtake the deficiencies of the services in the past. Boldest and most imaginative in conception and implementation was the Education Supplementary Five-Year Plan devised at the end of 1949 to supplement the Ten-Year Plan and aimed to bring universal, free, primary and compulsory education into being by 1960. Eighteen new buildings under the Supplementary Plan were opened to give a home to 25 English Primary Morning or Afternoon Schools, each of approximately 500 students. The first was officially opened by the Secretary of State during his visit in June. Five new Malay schools were opened and the construction of 4 regional schools under the Ten-Year Plan was begun. The number of schools maintained or aided by public funds increased during the year from 163 in 1949 to 213 and the number of pupils by 17,000 to 132,563 with almost another 10,000 in private educational institutions. The increase from 72,000 in 1941 is worthy of pride but with 222,000 of school age in 1950 (161,000 of them of Primary age) there can be, and has been, no complacency. To provide the teachers for these Plans a new Teachers' Training College was established and by the end of 1950, 760 teachers were in training compared with 278 in 1949.

The University of Malaya held its first Convocation in July 1950 when three post-graduate degrees and sixty-nine graduate degrees were awarded. Of the sixty-nine, forty-nine were Chinese, eleven Indians, five Malays and four Eurasians, and of the degrees twelve were honours degrees. The year was one of expansion for the University with the recruitment of staff which this involved. The decision was made to establish a Faculty of Engineering.

The year saw continued activity in the field of Adult Education, but it lacked a concentrated, co-ordinated drive. As a result of the visit of Mr. L. J. Barnes, who came to preside over the Federation of Malaya's Committee on Malay Education and who spent a week in Singapore discussing problems of Adult Education, it was agreed to establish a Council of Adult Education which would plan, by the co-operation of the University of Malaya, the Department of Education and the voluntary societies, a major expansion and become the channel for the expenditure of public funds for this purpose. The Council was established in December.

The educational advance was symbolised by the Education Week during which a central Exhibition was held and the Schools were opened to the parents to encourage the formation of Parent-Teacher Associations. The week ended with an open-air March-Past and Display by 14,000 school children of all nationalities before some 50,000 spectators. An exhilarating over-tone was given by the crescendo of threats of grenade-throwing by Communists against teachers and scholars, particularly of the Chinese schools. The day before the Display, Emergency Regulations were promulgated which made it a capital offence to possess or use explosives with evil intent. The Rally passed without incident, a personal triumph for the teachers and children over the Communists. It resulted in the focussing of public attention on a major programme of social construction which visibly refutes the Communist propaganda theme that the action of Britain in the Colonies can never be for the benefit of the people of the Colonies.

Prime place having been given to the Education Plan, the progress with the Medical Plan devised in 1948 was less spectacular. The first expansion to Trafalgar Home, the Leper Settlement, was carried out. Special consideration was given (successfully, as statistics showed) to tuberculosis. A new unit for tubercular patients was opened in the Tan Tock Seng Hospital. A voluntary organisation, the Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association expanded its facilities and its range of service, particularly in the field of B.C.G. vaccination, and the Social Welfare Department extended its work of relief to the families of tubercular patients. But the major building plans for hospitals and the Tuberculosis sanatorium did not reach the stage when building could begin. This did not, however, prevent the ever-increasing demands of a health-conscious Colony on a medical service, short of

buildings, equipment and staff; and the high level of health maintained and the achievement of new records in in-patient and out-patient treatment reflects the highest credit on all branches of the Medical Service. The death-rate of 1950 was 12.12 per 1,000. This is second only to the lowest recorded rate of 11.84 in 1949, and may be compared with the rate of 11 per thousand in the United Kingdom in 1948. While the 1950 infantile mortality rate was 82.23 per 1,000 compared with the figure of 72.04 per 1,000 for 1949, the maternal mortality rate declined still further to 1.85 per 1,000 births compared with 2.2 in 1949 and 7.0 in 1945. In the rural areas, attendances at the 39 clinics were 182,213 compared with 168,063 in 1949. One of the rural clinics was provided through the initiative and generosity of a Rural District Committee. The three travelling dispensaries gave 30,770 treatments. The general tuberculosis mortality rate fell further from 131.5 per 100,000 in 1949 to 119.3 per 100,000 in 1950. It is worth re-calling that taking the years 1939/41 as an index of 100, the indices have steadily declined and for 1950 the index figure is 52. While the number of beds in hospitals is now, on account of shortage of nursing staff, much the same as before 1939, the number of in-patients in 1950 was 35,492 compared with 30,976 in 1949. The Maternity Hospital alone dealt with 13,238 deliveries compared with 10,928 in 1949, and some 7,000 in 1947. Finally the out-patient attendances in 1950 were 423,377 compared with 380,599 in 1949 and with the pre-war figure of 90,000. Yet the public call for more and better services is relentless, and they treat as normal a service which is well above normal in relation to the staff and resources available.

The Social Welfare Department consolidated its work in the wide variety of institutions through which it comes into touch with the daily lives of men, women and children of all races in the Colony. Their concern is not only with those lacking in the basic material needs of life, but with those who need the widening horizons of greater opportunities for self-expression and group activity. The Children's Social Centres (the change of title from 'Feeding Centres' indicates the change of emphasis) aim to give new skills to the youngsters who attend, and the voluntary workers under the leadership of Lady Gimson, who are responsible for the staffing of these centres put a wide variety of handicraft and utilitarian skills at the service of the children. These centres earned the compliment of being described in the Annual Report of the Secretary of State for

the Colonies for 1949-50 as 'The most constructive child welfare work being undertaken in the Colonies'. Similarly, the Youth Welfare Section was re-named the Community Welfare Section and, with the active Youth Council, it has encouraged the full activity of the Boys' Clubs which, with the other Youth Organisations, form a crucial sphere of activity when nearly 50 per cent of the Colony's population is under 21. The encouragement of Community Centres and the provision of branch libraries follows the same emphasis on building social health as well as curing social ills.

The greatest addition to the responsibilities of the Social Welfare and Labour Departments came from the bringing into force of the 'Children's Charter', the Children and Young Persons' Ordinance, which placed the Juvenile Courts, the Juvenile Probation system, and all institutions for delinquent juveniles on a statutory basis and extended the provisions for the control of child labour and the registration of transferred children.

But Government has appreciated that the basic factor for permanent social advance is the healthy housing of the people. To quote Sir Franklin Gimson's Budget Speech 'Only in giving to each family a house in which the earliest lessons in social living can be learned within the family and in the atmosphere of the home can we be sure of building on firm foundations'. 1950 saw a building boom by official and unofficial bodies, and the demand for more houses of better quality is insistent, particularly from the younger generation. But the demand emphasised the shortage of building sites, skills and materials of which the rising costs were the symptom, hiding the real nature of the problem from the public. Public housing continued to be executed by the Singapore Improvement Trust aided by loans from Government. During 1950 \$8 million was spent by the Trust, almost as much as in 1948 and 1949 together, with building to the value of another \$12½ million under construction at the end of the year. 1,134 houses and shops were completed with 1,596 still under construction. This activity was supplemented by private builders, and the development of Housing Societies is providing a method of enabling the middle class to buy their own houses, thus relieving the general shortage and introducing a new element of social stability. The Colonial and Federal Housing Society established by the Colonial Development Corporation, found it necessary to increase its capital five-fold within six months of beginning its work. An example of

self-help in housing is the Government Officers Co-operative Housing Society which built its first six houses during the year.

Schemes of Housing and Town Planning were made the subject of public discussion during two events in December. Sir George Pepler, C.B., who had agreed to act as Planning Adviser to Singapore, paid his first visit to the Colony and later in the month, a Tropical Housing Mission organised by United Nations Organisation and consisting of four experts headed by Mr. Jacob Crane of the Federal Housing Bureau in Washington, brought its experience and advice to the Colony. A Housing Exhibition organised by the Singapore Improvement Trust and the Public Relations Office took these questions beyond the Councils and the experts to the man-in-the-street.

Political security and expanding social services require a basis in economic prosperity and stability. World attention has been focussed on South-East Asia not only because of the Communist threat, but because of the need for the improvement of its productivity as a guarantee of the rise in the standard of life of its people and because of its richness in essential raw materials of peace and war, rubber and tin, the earnings of which increased rapidly in the latter half of the year. Singapore, as a predominantly commercial centre with a standard of living far above that which could be borne by its industrial and agricultural resources alone, if taken in isolation from the mainland of Peninsular Malaya, is particularly sensitive to these trends of trade in the basic raw materials and its prosperity depends on its efficiency as a trading centre. To repeat the simile used in the report on Singapore's scheme submitted under the Colombo Plan, 'The Federation Government may be compared to a farmer who has to decide which field he will plant with this crop and which with that, and is in a position to plan some time ahead. The Singapore Government, however, may be likened to the skipper of a tramp continually embarking on fresh voyages as new opportunities of trade open up and unable to say at any time what his course will be, where he will be, what his cargo and what his bank balance will be twelve months ahead'.

As a consequence the plans aim to prove the efficiency of Singapore as a commercial centre of trade and travel by sea and air, and to improve the standard of living of its people.

Yet the subsidiary long-term aim of expanding the secondary industries in Singapore is also being realised. Aluminium articles, commercial gas, footwear, confectionary, plastic goods, and rubber

powder all showed expansion in production mainly to meet local needs and there was a considerable export of locally manufactured electric batteries to Asian and African countries.

Paradoxically it was the unnaturally high price of rubber and not its former low price which turned serious thought to the long-term stability of a commodity so important for the wealth of the Colony. In general Singapore retained her commercial primacy in South-East Asia and continued her role as the chief port of Malaya. With re-armament and stockpiling, particularly by the United States of America, trade reached a record figure of \$4,608 million. The value of exports increased by 135 per cent and of imports by 63 per cent over the 1949 figures. Rubber rose in value during the year from 50 cents to \$2.35 a lb. and total exports were 655,025 tons, that is 170,176 tons more than in 1949. Tin too rose in price to £1,280 a ton at the November peak, and exports increased by 49 per cent to 35,855 tons. These increased exports created an inflation with a consequent demand for imports and particularly for textiles. But goods could not keep up with money, and the inflationary trend brought a rise in prices in the commodities required by the ordinary man. The additional factors of restricted fishery facilities and the effect of the Federation re-settlement schemes in reducing the supply of vegetables and fish to the Colony put the taste of the increased cost of living into every cooking pot.

With the Communists ever vigilant on their search for grievances to exploit and with this rising cost of living in the latter part of the year, labour strains were to be expected. And it reflects credit on employers and trade unions alike that industrial relations were generally harmonious and the machinery of conciliation successfully used. The greatest strain was in the Rubber Industry and a Court of Enquiry under the Industrial Courts Ordinance was set up in June. It did not complete its work, however, for in the meanwhile an agreement was reached for an increase in wages, a settlement believed to be the first instance in Singapore of a negotiated agreement covering a whole industry. Most changes in wage-rates during the year were the result of agreements negotiated with the assistance of the Labour Department and the Trade Unions playing a considerable part. In forty disputes known to the Labour Department and affecting eleven main industries, negotiations were carried out by Trade Union Officials. Building on such sane strength and following the visit of a

delegation from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a further attempt was made to form a Trade Union Congress but, although agreement was reached in principle, no such body was formed.

In July the Weekly Holidays Ordinance came into force. This Ordinance provides that retail shops should close on one day a week, or where that is not desirable, e.g. in the case of chemists, that employees should have a day off in each week. This was a popular measure and was linked in public discussion with the need to provide opportunities for the active and healthy use of the weekly rest-day. Raffles Library broke an age-long tradition in opening on Sundays, following the successful example of the United States Information Services Library. The Singapore Olympic and Sports Council continued to stimulate interest and proficiency in sport at every level of achievement. It organised a team to visit the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand from which the weight-lifting team came back with four medals. An Ordinance to provide a statutory basis for the establishment of a Sports Stadium, was passed by the Legislative Council. With the aid of the Amateur Athletic Association, the British Council and certain private donors, the Singapore Olympic and Sports Council arranged the visit of Mr. Geoffrey Dyson, an athletic coach on the staff of the Ministry of Education in the United Kingdom. By his practical demonstrations and lectures on athletics, he made a direct contribution to the improvement of the athletic standards of the Colony and stimulated the demand for greater training facilities. Finally, members of the Singapore Olympic and Sports Council participated in a Committee set up by Government to conduct a survey of the needs for playing fields. In general, football and basketball continued to make their popular appeal, and were the games which brought visiting teams from abroad.

Cultural activities were many and successful. The Singapore Art Society held four exhibitions, one of photographs from 73 entrants, one of painting and sculpture submitted by 76 local artists, and one of paintings by art teachers and the students. All were well attended, but the largest was the Inter-School Art Exhibition, which formed a part of Education Week and for which 57 schools sent 2,700 entries. Some of the pictures were later sent to London for exhibition in Overseas House. The Singapore Music Society presented five separate programmes of choral, orchestral and solo items by a choir of some 90



C. A. Gibson-Hill

Raffles Place, 1950



Water colour by Sulaiman bin Haji Suhaimi.

voices and an orchestra of 50 players. Attendances were good and brought financial success, each concert making its successor possible. The Junior Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by the Department of Education, excelled its previous standards and had the distinction of providing the music for the film of the Education Plan under the title 'Citizen of Singapore'. The British Council made possible the top event of the musical year in presenting the Robert Masters String Quartet which gave 4 concerts in Singapore.

In the field of drama, the most lasting work was done by the Teachers Repertory which aims to give to drama a local habitation and a place among the people of the Colony. Their production of *Richard II* in the courtyard of the Teachers Training College was one in which its author would have delighted, as he would have delighted too in the open-air production of *Twelfth Night* during Education Week. The Drama and Music Festival for schools brought many entries of high standard, training the actors and the audiences of the future. During the year the Singapore Repertory Theatre gave two seasons of plays, to satisfy the most catholic and critical of tastes. But praise-worthy as were the financial sacrifice and unflagging enthusiasm which was put into it, particularly by its young originator and manager, its appeal was made to the limited group of those who had brought the regular theatre-going habit with them to the Colony, a group not yet large enough to allow regular repertory to pay its way.

The Chapters following in Part II of this Report contain more detailed information regarding the various aspects of the Colony's Administration, together with details of development, plans and schemes. The major part of the cost of capital development is borne by the Colony's own Revenue, but assistance has also been rendered in certain cases by His Majesty's Government under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. An abstract of Capital Expenditure under approved Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes is given in the Appendix to Part II of this Report.

Reference was made at the beginning of this chapter to the tragedy of two days rioting which took place in December. The rioting had as its basis the dissatisfaction among the Muslim community caused by a decision of the High Court in Singapore. This decision gave the custody of a 13 year old girl, Maria Hertogh, to her mother, a Dutch Eurasian. The girl had been brought up for many years by a Malay

foster-mother and had recently married a Malay. Despite the fact that the Judge stigmatised the marriage as a discreditable manoeuvre, and held that it was invalid, the general view among Muslims was that although the marriage was a manoeuvre it had been performed in accordance with the rites of Islam and that the declaration of its non-validity was an insult to Islam.

The rioting began outside the Supreme Court about noon on Monday, 11th December and its most violent phase was during that day. But violent incidents continued till noon on Wednesday, 13th December. The rioters were Malays, Indonesians and South Indian Muslims, inflamed by religious fanaticism and misled by false presentations of the issue before the Court and the facts on which it had to decide. The fury of the mob was directed against Europeans and Eurasians. Eighteen were killed during the riots, 9 were victims of the rioters and 9 were killed in the putting down of the riots. 131 were injured by the rioters; 72 vehicles were burned and 119 damaged. Troops were called in to assist the police on the evening of the first day, and the promptness and effectiveness of the support given by the Army under the leadership of the General Officer Commanding, Singapore District, Major-General D. Dunlop won general praise. The troops engaged were not only the Internal Security Battalions organised in anticipation of such contingencies by Major-General Dunlop himself, but the 13th/18th Royal Hussars whose move from Kluang, Johore, through a sleepless night to immediate duty on the morning of Tuesday, 12th December has earned them an honoured place in the annals of the Colony.

Whereas fuller judgment must await the publication of the Report of the Riot Inquiry Commission, it is legitimate here to quote the assessment of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Franklin Gimson, speaking at the Legislative Council on 19th December while memories were painfully fresh. In announcing the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry, he said, 'We have seen in Singapore an outbreak of violence unparalleled in the peacetime history of this centre of peaceful living and commerce. It has been our pride in Singapore that men and women and children of all races and creeds could live and earn their livelihood in mutual respect and tolerance and co-operation. It is our aim to build from those groups a generation of men and women whose first loyalty will be to the peace and prosperity of Singapore as a focal point in the Commonwealth of Nations. Our

pride in the past and our hopes for the future have had a rude shock by this outburst of racial and religious intolerance turned to a hooliganism that showed no respect for life or property . . .'

'The issue is clear for men and women of all religions, races and political creeds. The supreme law is the safety of the people. Without law and order there can be neither peace of mind nor freedom of movement nor guarantee of property for anyone in the community, whatever his occupation or social position may be. Once that is unsettled all that we have built up in this Colony is in jeopardy and everyone will be the loser. A city based on the peaceful ways of commerce cannot thrive on the insecurity of violence. These days last week gave us a taste of the course of events when violence attempts to mount the saddle'.

'Let us who have the welfare of Singapore at heart resolve that such days will not return. Let us learn their lesson frankly and fearlessly but let not that be a passive thing. It is a challenge to activity to increase our defences against threats from within and without: to increase our activity to restore and strengthen the good relationship between the communities, which are all playing their part in building one Singapore: to ensure a fuller opportunity for constructive activity by our youth in this Colony; and to ensure that the generation in our schools will learn the essential lessons of racial harmony and religious tolerance.

'These are long term aims but the harsh immediate problems remain of restoring confidence and normal conditions in the Colony and consolidating ourselves in the face of international tension and the Emergency which still threatens Malaya. The prime responsibility lies with Government, and, learning from the past and from whatever judgment is passed on us, the Government will see that the tools are apt to the job and the job is done.'

PART TWO

II

Population

THE PRESENT population figure for mid-year 1950 is based on the actual 1947 Census figure plus migrational surplus plus excess births over deaths since then. On this calculation the estimate is 1,015,453, which is some 34,500 more than the figure for mid-year 1949.

Details by race since 1911 are as follows:—

SINGAPORE ISLAND
(excluding Cocos and Keeling Islands)

Year	Chinese	Malays	In- dians	Euro- peans	Eura- sians	Others	Total
1911 (Census) ..	219,577	41,806	27,755	not av	ailable	..	303,321
1921 (Census) ..	315,151	53,595	32,314	6,145	5,436	5,717	418,358
1931 (Census) ..	418,640	65,014	50,811	8,082	6,903	8,295	557,745
1947 (Census) ..	729,473	113,803	68,967	9,279	9,110	7,512	938,144
1948 (Mid-year) ..	749,591	116,364	69,474	9,660	9,354	7,599	962,042
1949 (Mid-year) ..	761,962	119,623	70,749	10,923	9,716	7,845	980,818
1950 (Mid-year) ..	789,160	123,624	72,467	11,504	10,093	8,605	1,015,453

Thus there has been a remarkable increase in Singapore's population over the last 19 years. In the 20 year period from 1911 to 1931 the increase was some 83 per cent when the cause was mainly due to large scale immigration from India and China. Since 1931 the overall increase is about 82 per cent due to a steady increase by natural (births over deaths) means. Since the last war, in fact, the increase has been vitiated by the balance of emigration over immigration. In 1931 the number of females to males was 584 to 1,000. The ratio is now 855 to 1,000. This is the factor of real significance in present and future local population trends.

COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS POPULATION, 1950 (MID-YEAR)

Chinese	..	..	..	..	13
Malays	..	..	..	..	1,460
Indians	..	..	..	..	4
Europeans	..	..	..	..	17
Eurasians	..	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..	..
Total					1,494

The recruitment of a number of families for labour in North Borneo is responsible for a reduction of 269—all Malays—over the last 12 months.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND POPULATION, 1950 (MID-YEAR)

Chinese	..	..	..	..	1,137
Malays	..	..	..	..	249
Indians	..	..	..	..	19
Europeans	..	..	..	..	67
Eurasians	..	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..	..
Total					1,472

BIRTHS AND DEATHS, 1950

COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS			CHRISTMAS ISLAND		
	Males	Females		Males	Females
Births	.. 44	28	Births	.. 30	33
Deaths	.. 14	9	Deaths	.. 14	2

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

Race		1931		1947		1950	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Chinese	..	15,993	37.85	33,629	46.20	36,165	45.83
Malays	..	2,862	43.69	5,473	47.73	5,758	46.58
Indians	..	1,020	19.64	3,087	43.30	3,197	44.12
Europeans	..	169	20.55	312	35.79	570	49.55
Eurasians	..	199	28.53	359	39.84	321	31.80
Others	..	227	29.09	185	28.27	360	41.84
Total	..	20,470	36.37	43,045	45.89	46,371	45.67
Male	..	10,753	..	22,152	..	23,857	..
Female	..	9,717	..	20,893	..	22,514	..
Total	..	20,470	..	43,045	..	46,371	..
Male births per 100 births	..	52.04		51.23		51.45	

BIRTHS BY SEX, RACE AND MOTHERS' AGES REGISTERED IN SINGAPORE, 1950

Mother's Age	EUROPEANS		EURASIANS		CHINESE		MALAYS		INDIANS		OTHERS		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
14 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	11	7	1	..	17	13
15 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	30	15	22	2	..	71	84
16 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	106	44	36	35	..	..	188	172
17 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	327	136	59	46	3	2	320	240
18 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	337	78	59	46	3	2	650	639
19 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	560	323	102	110	5	5	830	787
20 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	742	523	101	132	2	10	1,224	1,135
21 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	792	742	145	135	2	11	1,345	1,279
22 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,045	972	186	182	16	9	1,539	1,458
23 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,166	1,057	183	182	14	12	1,411	1,316
24 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,103	1,057	183	182	13	9	1,289	1,310
25 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,043	1,043	187	185	7	12	1,273	1,217
26 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	940	870	178	195	16	12	1,272	1,203
27 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,010	935	144	163	15	9	1,270	1,116
28 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	839	853	122	108	15	7	1,050	1,042
29 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	850	770	147	147	14	6	1,050	1,042
30 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	878	865	141	135	8	11	1,081	1,071
31 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	751	753	61	63	10	4	1,007	915
32 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	816	755	101	80	11	3	745	805
33 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	703	604	32	37	11	5	703	691
34 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	681	728	17	35	6	8	860	743
35 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	735	623	81	63	6	5	860	743
36 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	601	603	38	31	3	3	676	679
37 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	567	518	41	38	3	3	638	592
38 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	584	501	29	18	2	1	641	541
39 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	428	404	12	10	2	2	455	430
40 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	387	348	26	22	2	1	427	391
41 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	211	206	9	7	..	..	224	222
42 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	196	225	7	6	..	..	213	238
43 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	128	109	5	2	..	..	135	113
44 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	82	77	4	4	..	..	83	50
45 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	44	..	..	..	..	55	34
Over 45 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	32	1	..	..	..	58	34
Total	311	259	168	153	18,647	17,518*	2,943	2,815	1,588	1,609	200	160	23,857	22,514*

*Includes one age unknown.

BIRTHS BY SEX AND RACE

	Urban Area	Rural Area	Singapore Total
MALES			
Europeans	117	194	311
Eurasians	157	11	168
Chinese	13,858	4,789	18,647
Malays	1,738	1,205	2,943
Indians	1,242	346	1,588
Others	180	20	200
Total ..	17,292	6,565	23,857
FEMALES			
Europeans	88	171	259
Eurasians	142	11	153
Chinese	12,875	4,643	17,518
Malays	1,674	1,141	2,815
Indians	1,252	357	1,609
Others	139	21	160
Total ..	16,170	6,344	22,514
Grand Total ..	33,462	12,909	46,371

The annual increase in the number of births over the post-war period received a check in 1950 in that the 1950 figure of 46,371 barely passed the 1949 figure of 46,169. This resulted in a reduction in the 1949 rate of 47.07 per 1,000 of the population to 45.67.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

Race	1931		1947		1950	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Chinese	10,599	25.09	9,368	12.87	9,329	11.82
Malays	1,905	29.08	2,029	17.70	2,000	16.18
Indians	820	15.81	878	12.32	717	9.89
Europeans	51	6.20	74	8.49	93	8.08
Eurasians	103	14.76	84	9.32	88	8.72
Others	145	18.58	78	11.92	85	9.88
Total ..	13,623	24.20	12,511	13.34	12,312	12.12

DEATHS BY SEX AND RACE, 1950

	Urban Area	Rural Area	Singapore Total
MALES			
Europeans	41	28	69
Eurasians	39	3	42
Chinese	4,356	1,054	5,410
Malays	675	436	1,111
Indians	390	76	466
Others	45	6	51
Unknown	1	..	1
Total ..	5,547	1,603	7,150
FEMALES			
Europeans	14	10	24
Eurasians	42	4	46
Chinese	3,207	712	3,919
Malays	543	346	889
Indians	205	46	251
Others	23	5	28
Unknown	3	..	3
Total ..	4,037	1,123	5,160
Unknown Race and Sex ..	2	..	2
Grand Total ..	9,586	2,726	12,312

COLONY OF SINGAPORE

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS, 1950

Ages	Urban Area	Rural Area	Singapore Total
0- 1 day	323	95	418
1- 7 days	350	93	443
8-14 days	184	22	206
15-21 days	165	32	197
22-28 days	107	12	119
Neo-Natal Deaths	1,129	254	1,383
1- 2 months	496	130	626
2- 3 months	319	91	410
3- 4 months	145	26	171
4- 5 months	148	45	193
5- 6 months	111	20	131
6- 7 months	149	39	188
7- 8 months	112	30	142
8- 9 months	131	51	182
9-10 months	116	29	145
10-11 months	108	31	139
11-12 months	74	29	103
Infantile Mortality	3,038	775	3,813
1- 5 years	1,225	493	1,718
5-10 years	156	72	228
10-15 years	136	36	172
15-20 years	177	45	222
20-25 years	289	65	354
25-30 years	245	57	302
30-35 years	343	66	409
35-40 years	469	121	590
40-45 years	511	113	624
45-50 years	522	114	636
50-55 years	576	114	690
55 years and over	1,898	655	2,553
Age Unknown	1	..	1
Grand Total	9,586	2,726	12,312

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DEATHS GROUPED ACCORDING TO AGE, SEX AND RACE REGISTERED IN SINGAPORE FOR THE YEAR 1950

Age Groups	Sex	Europeans	Eurasians	Chinese	Malays	Indians	Others	Unknown	Total
0- 1 day ..	M	3	1	167	56	18	3	..	248
	F	2	1	103	38	21	2	2+1*	169*
1- 7 days ..	M	1	1	173	44	15	6	1	241
	F	..	..	153	36	12	1	..	202
8-14 days ..	M	..	..	74	18	6	..	..	98
	F	..	..	93	10	5	..	..	108
15-21 days ..	M	..	..	57	18	7	..	..	82
	F	..	..	102	12	1	..	..	115
22-28 days ..	M	..	..	29	10	2	..	..	41
	F	..	..	67	11	..	..	..	78
Neo-Natal Deaths	M and F	6	3	1,018	253	87	12	4	1,363
28 days-2 months ..	M	1	2	217	82	22	4	..	328
	F	..	1	236	44	16	1	..	298
2- 3 months ..	M	..	1	145	58	7	1	..	212
	F	..	2	141	44	10	1	..	198
3- 4 months ..	M	1	1	61	15	6	..	..	84
	F	..	1	53	25	8	..	..	87
4- 5 months ..	M	1	..	51	29	4	3	..	88
	F	1	1	71	25	7	..	..	105
Carried forward ..	M	7	6	974	290	87	17	1	1,382
	F	3	6	1,019	245	80	5	3	1,361

* One unknown sex.

DEATHS GROUPED ACCORDING TO AGE, SEX AND RACE REGISTERED IN SINGAPORE
FOR THE YEAR 1950—continued

Age Groups	Sex	Europeans	Eurasians	Chinese	Malays	Indians	Others	Unknown	Total
<i>Brought forward</i> ..	M	7	6	974	290	87	17	1	1,382
	F	3	6	1,019	245	80	5	3	1,361
5- 6 months ..	M	..	..	57	19	4	..	..	80
	F	..	..	34	13	4	..	..	51
6- 7 months ..	M	..	1	66	24	6	2	..	99
	F	1	..	64	20	4	..	..	89
7- 8 months ..	M	..	..	51	20	5	..	..	76
	F	1	..	41	19	4	1	..	66
8- 9 months ..	M	2	1	70	24	5	..	..	102
	F	..	1	59	14	6	..	..	80
9-10 months ..	M	1	..	59	13	1	..	..	74
	F	1	..	46	21	3	..	..	71
10-11 months ..	M	..	..	49	22	3	..	..	74
	F	1	..	49	14	..	1	..	65
11-12 months ..	M	..	1	41	14	2	..	..	58
	F	..	1	38	4	2	..	..	45
Infantile Mortality	M	10	9	1,367	466	113	19	1	1,985
	F	7	8	1,350	350	103	7	2+1*	1,827*
1- 5 years ..	M	..	5	680	175	47	1	..	908
	F	1	3	608	149	43	6	..	810
<i>Carried forward</i> ..	M	10	14	2,047	641	160	20	1	2,893
	F	8	11	1,958	499	146	13	3	1,638

* One unknown sex.

DEATHS GROUPED ACCORDING TO AGE, SEX AND RACE REGISTERED IN SINGAPORE
FOR THE YEAR 1950—continued

Age Groups	Sex	Europeans	Eurasians	Chinese	Malays	Indians	Others	Unknown	Total
<i>Brought forward</i> ..	M	10	14	2,047	641	160	20	1	2,893
	F	8	11	1,958	499	146	13	3*	1,638*
5-10 years ..	M	..	1	96	20	7	..	..	124
	F	..	1	80	16	7	..	..	104
10-15 years ..	M	..	..	75	11	5	..	..	91
	F	..	1	60	16	4	..	..	81
15-20 years ..	M	4	..	81	14	5	1	..	105
	F	1	..	80	24	10	2	..	117
20-25 years ..	M	8	2	137	38	18	3	..	206
	F	2	2	93	34	15	2	..	148
25-30 years ..	M	5	..	119	33	21	4	..	182
	F	2	2	74	38	4	..	..	120
30-35 years ..	M	9	..	172	32	27	2	..	242
	F	..	2	130	27	7	1	..	167
35-40 years ..	M	5	1	279	45	35	2	..	367
	F	..	4	166	36	16	1	..	223
40-45 years ..	M	3	3	318	46	37	4	..	411
	F	..	3	166	35	9	..	..	213
45-50 years ..	M	5	1	372	42	34	3	..	457
	F	2	..	143	24	7	3	..	179
<i>Carried forward</i> ..	M	49	22	3,676	922	349	39	1	5,058
	F	15	26	3,010	749	225	22	3*	4,050*

* One unknown sex.

COLONY OF SINGAPORE

DEATHS GROUPED ACCORDING TO AGE, SEX AND RACE REGISTERED IN SINGAPORE
FOR THE YEAR 1950—continued

Age Groups	Sex	Europeans	Eurasians	Chinese	Malays	Indians	Others	Unknown	Total
Brought forward ..	M	49	22	3,676	922	349	39	1	5,058
	F	15	26	3,010	749	225	22	3	4,050
50-55 years ..	M	8	6	410	38	41	4	..	507
	F	2	2	153	22	4	..	..	183
55 years and over ..	M	12	14	1,304	151	76	8	..	1,565
	F	7	18	816	118	22	6	1	988
Age Unknown ..	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	1*	1*
Total ..	M	69	42	5,410	1,111	466	51	1	7,150
	F	24	46	3,919	889	251	28	3*	5,160*
Grand Total ..		93	88	9,329	2,000	717	79	6	12,312

The death rate for 1949 was the lowest on record at 11.84 per 1,000 of the population. The 1950 rate shows a slight increase to 12.12, but this is still lower than any year previous to 1949 and compares favourably with the England and Wales rate of 12.3 for 1947. The latest England and Wales rate available is 11.0 for 1948. Whilst there has been an increase in deaths from violence, senility, cancer, heart affections, diseases of the respiratory tract and from diseases of the intestinal tract, the decline in pulmonary tuberculosis has continued, the index reaching a low record of 52 as compared with 100 in the 1939/41 average. Significantly, infantile convulsions showed no rise. The general good health of the Colony continues.

* Two unknown sex.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Race	1931		1947		1950	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Chinese	3,041	183.83	2,671	79.43	2,717	75.13
Malays	722	261.35	784	143.25	816	141.72
Indians	171	163.73	236	76.45	216	67.56
Europeans	5	29.59	18	57.69	17	29.82
Eurasians	23	110.55	28	77.99	17	52.96
Others	34	149.78	21	113.51	30	83.33
Total ..	3,996	191.30	3,758	87.33	3,813	82.23

INFANT MORTALITY, 1950

		URBAN AREA		RURAL AREA		SINGAPORE		Rate per mille of births
		Births	Deaths under one year	Births	Deaths under one year	Births	Deaths under one year	
January February March	First Quarter ..	8,123	734	3,123	206	11,246	940	83.59
April May June	Second Quarter ..	8,440	797	3,260	184	11,700	981	83.85
July August September	Third Quarter ..	8,241	794	3,164	207	11,405	1,001	87.77
October November December	Fourth Quarter ..	8,658	713	3,362	178	12,020	891	74.13
Total ..		33,462	3,038	12,909	775	46,371	3,813	82.23

The rate per mille of births for 1950=82.23

The infant mortality rate (deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births) showed a rise to 82.23 from the 1949 low record of 72.04. Even so, this compared very favourably with the pre-war returns

(130.47 in 1939; 191.30 in 1931 and 285.0 in 1944). The increase is due mainly to deterioration in the Malay rate. Nevertheless this is still well under the 1948 figure of 155.27. Surprisingly, the Indian is the only race to show a reduction and this is considerable (from 80.89 to 67.56).

Of the 3,813 infant deaths registered in Singapore during the year 1950, 1,985 were of males and 1,827 were of females, there being one of undetermined sex.

Still births accounted for 17.4 per 1,000 of all births as compared with 17.2 in 1949. This figure compares favourably with the 1948 England and Wales figure of 23.2.

The important neo-natal mortality rate was 29.8 per 1,000 live births compared with 28.0 in 1949 and 32.8 in 1948. The hesitancy over a continuing drop, however, shows the necessity for the Medical Plan. The England and Wales figure was 19.7 for 1948.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

The maternal mortality rate continued to decline and was 1.85 per 1,000 total births as compared with 2.2 in 1949, over 7.0 in 1945 and 4.0 in 1939. The corresponding figure for England and Wales in 1948 was 1.02.

MIGRATION STATISTICS BY SEA AND AIR DURING 1950

IMMIGRANTS

Race	ADULTS		CHILDREN		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
European	16,403	7,150	1,618	1,303	26,474
Eurasian	162	139	48	42	391
Chinese	34,988	8,326	4,208	2,764	50,286
Malaysian	3,861	811	271	270	5,213
Indian and Pakistani ..	7,571	1,154	540	432	9,697
Others	1,986	472	105	98	2,661
Total all Races ..	64,971	18,052	6,790	4,909	94,722

EMIGRANTS

Race	ADULTS		CHILDREN		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
European	16,526	7,603	1,667	1,389	27,185
Eurasian	88	51	21	8	168
Chinese	41,927	7,820	2,409	1,511	53,667
Malaysian	6,622	1,618	757	745	9,742
Indian and Pakistani ..	13,229	1,432	769	659	16,089
Others	1,976	568	193	184	2,921
Total all Races ..	80,368	19,092	5,816	4,496	109,772

CHINESE DECK PASSENGERS FROM AND TO CHINA AND HONGKONG, 1950

Country	IMMIGRANTS				Total	EMIGRANTS				Total
	ADULTS		CHILDREN			ADULTS		CHILDREN		
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
China ..	5,383	1,418	1,324	780	8,905	8,267	1,174	876	580	10,897
Hong Kong	8,570	3,335	2,056	1,422	15,383	3,983	1,217	470	226	5,896
Total ..	13,953	4,753	3,380	2,202	24,288	12,250	2,391	1,346	806	16,793

III

Occupation, Wages, Labour Organisation

VIEWING the Singapore of 1950, its streets crowded with a cosmopolitan populace drawn from all parts of the world, its harbour filled with every kind of craft from fishing boats to liners, its numerous shops and fine buildings, it is difficult to realise that at a census taken just over one hundred years ago and recorded in the *Journal of the Indian Archipelago* for 1850 the total population of the Colony was counted as 59,043. Of this number 37,785 were engaged in some form of gainful employment, divided into six occupational groups, as follows:—

Merchants	234
Mechanics	2,996
Agriculturists	10,088
Labourers	13,991
Servants	1,310
Miscellaneous	9,156

The wages of 'Agriculturists' and 'Labourers' who appear to have dominated the employment picture at that time are recorded as having been \$3 to \$3.50 per month.

During 1950 the population of Singapore passed the one million mark and a glance at the Census of 1947 will enable a very fair idea to be obtained of the means by which the working population earns its means of livelihood now. The 1947 Census figures illustrate the essential truth that comparatively speaking, the Island neither grows the products it exports, nor much improves or renders marketable those which pass through its hands. To no place in the world could the term 'entrepot' be more properly applied. It is therefore not a matter for surprise to find that out of 357,000 gainfully employed persons, 234,000 or 65 per cent, were engaged in the provision of services of

some form or other. The nature of these services and the numbers employed in each are given in the following table:—

Transport	51,000
Public Administration (including Defence)	54,000
Commerce and Finance	83,000
Personal Services	46,000
Total	234,000

A breakdown of these main classifications shows that in the Transport group 18,000 were engaged in road and rail, 10,000 in shipping services, 8,000 in tugs and lighterage, 10,000 in the Singapore Harbour Board and ferry services. Of those in Personal Services, by far the largest number was engaged in private domestic employment, while 11,000 were employed in restaurants, eating and coffee houses. The biggest group of all, Commerce and Finance, covered all the distributive trades, including shop-keepers and hawkers, the latter being the largest single group in this category. Apart from these services, the largest numbers were employed in manufacture (58,000), agriculture (25,000) and building (7,000). In the manufacturing industries, about 19,000 persons were employed in the manufacture and repair of metals, machines, conveyances and jewellery, and about 8,000 persons in each of the clothing, woodworking, food and tobacco, and rubber milling industries.

Records of employment are available only in respect of manual workers, who are estimated to represent about one-third of the total working population. It is therefore necessary to turn once again to the 1947 Census Report for figures concerning the numbers employed in the different occupations. To quote a few of the larger groups, there were 14,600 drivers, cleaners and conductors, 27,800 typists, clerks and stenographers, 16,300 salesmen, accountants and commercial travellers, 29,700 vendors, pedlars and hawkers, 27,100 domestic servants. The largest group of primary producers were the fruit and vegetable growers, most of whom were family workers, not hired labour, and who numbered 18,700. Figures obtained from employers concerning their manual workers employed as at 31st March, and 30th September during the year showed that there were 114,283 and 116,845 such workers employed at those dates as compared with 118,743 and 111,706 at the corresponding dates last year. The principal increases between September, 1949 and September, 1950 were

in the brickworks (89 per cent), engineering works (67 per cent), estates (27 per cent), furniture factories (35 per cent), glass works (50 per cent), gum damar works (203 per cent), rubber packing and processing factories (77 per cent), sago factories (144 per cent), ship-building yards (259 per cent), tin smelting works (64 per cent), and woodwork, box, tub and coach-work factories (91 per cent). The main decreases were in oil mills (34 per cent) and Government service (4 per cent).

During the first half of the year, wage rates remained fairly steady and showed, if anything, a downward tendency, but at about the middle of the year the tide began to turn. The change was heralded by a demand for increased wages in the Rubber Mills where the spectacular rise in the price of rubber was leading to bigger profits of which the workers claimed a share. Their claim was the stronger in that in 1949, when the price of rubber was low, they had agreed to a reduction in rates. There was a very hesitant response from the employers who at first appeared to be divided amongst themselves, whereas the workers were represented by a single Union, the Union of Singapore Rubber Workers. Since it was apparent that undue delay might result in serious industrial unrest, a Court of Inquiry, under the Industrial Courts Ordinance, was set up. During the course of the proceedings before the Court it became evident that both sides wished to enter into negotiations. The Court therefore suspended its sittings and an agreement was made between the Union and the Singapore Chinese Rubber Millers' Association which gave an all-round increase of 20 per cent in the wage rates of rubber workers and a guaranteed minimum daily earning of \$3.36. Increases were granted, as from the same date, in the few non-Chinese owned rubber mills in Singapore. This agreement is believed to be the first instance in Singapore of a negotiated agreement covering virtually a whole industry. In December when the price of rubber had reached new heights, the agreement was reviewed on more advantageous terms for the workers. Wage rates were increased by no less than 50 per cent over those fixed in June, with a guaranteed minimum daily earning of \$5.05.

The example of the Rubber Mills was followed elsewhere, though the rises were smaller. Dairy farm workers, carrying labourers, and lorry drivers received increases, and by the end of the year, higher wage rates were being negotiated in a number of other industries.

Basic wage rates of daily rated labourers employed by Government remained the same throughout the year, as did the allowances of daily rated employees on a basic rate of \$3.85 or more. But the allowances of Government daily rated employees on less than \$3.85 were raised by 10 per cent and the minimum allowance payable was increased from 20 cents to 30 cents per day with effect from 1st July. In September, the cost of living allowance of Municipal workers was raised 10 per cent.

As the year advanced, demands for higher wages became more and more justified by the rise in the cost of living which followed the worsening international situation. The price of controlled rice remained the same, but the prices of many other commodities rose, in some cases sharply. Labourers' budgets compiled from month to month by the Department of Labour, showed a steady increase from August onwards.

Most of the changes of the wage rates, both upwards and downwards, took place as a result of negotiated agreements between employers and workers or their Unions. Thus in February, two bus companies reduced rates after negotiation with their employees and in April the Dyers and Dry Cleaners' Union agreed with their employers to a slight reduction in rates. The agreements in June and December between the Union of Singapore Rubber Workers and the Employers' Association for an increase in rates have already been mentioned, and in September the Singapore Dairy Farm Workers' Union obtained an increase after negotiations with their employers. In some of the negotiated agreements between Unions and Employers, there were clauses concerning hours of work, overtime rates, and holidays. Such conditions of work vary in different concerns, but in general the normal hours of work of manual labourers are eight, and overtime rates vary from one-and-a-half times to twice the usual rates of pay. In most of the principal industries, work is carried on for six days in the week, though there are some concerns in which work stops at mid-day on Saturday. Some factories work a seven-day week, but under the Labour Ordinance, no labourer may be compelled to work for more than six days in one week, and as most factory workers are on daily pay, the usual practice is for them to take a day's holiday when they wish.

A Weekly Holidays Ordinance was brought into force in July. Under this Ordinance all retail shops except scheduled categories

such as chemists, undertakers, and purveyors of petrol, were required to close on one day in each week, and all employees in shops, restaurants and theatres must be given one day's paid holiday each week. This measure to afford some amelioration of the conditions of employment of shop assistants received much public support and within a few months of its introduction the would-be purchaser of goods on a Sunday had to look far and wide for a suitable shop in which he could lawfully buy. The Ordinance allows each shopowner to choose for himself the day on which he wishes to close, but he may not vary the closing day more than once in three months. It was found that great inconvenience was caused to the public if the closing day fell on the eve of an important holiday, and in December an amendment to the law was passed giving the Commissioner for Labour the power to allow another closing day to be substituted in these circumstances. Records kept by the Labour Department show that 78 per cent chose to close on Sundays, 6 per cent on Fridays and 4 per cent on Tuesdays. Friday closing was chosen by Mohammedan shopkeepers as a rule, many of the smaller Indian shops being owned and staffed by Mohammedans. Late in the year, Monday and Tuesday closing gained in popularity. Attempts were made to devise various methods of evasion of the provisions of the Ordinance, the most popular being to construct a temporary stall from which sales were made on the five-foot way, while the shop remained closed. In other cases, a guard of small children was arranged to report the presence of Labour Inspectors or even strangers. By the end of the year, 154 prosecutions had been instituted and 144 convictions secured for breaches of the provisions of the Ordinance.

With regard to annual holidays, many employers give their workers six or more holidays with pay, and the Government and Municipality allow their daily-rated employees twelve days. These holidays are usually taken on public holidays, and rarely consecutively. Some concerns close down on certain public holidays, to allow their employees time off, but without pay. There is as yet very little uniformity in industry over the question of holidays, and practice varies very considerably.

The part played by Trade Unions in negotiations concerning wages and conditions of work was an important factor in the maintenance of good industrial relations throughout the year. Thus in 40 disputes brought to the notice of the Department of Labour in eleven main

industries, negotiations were conducted by Union officials on behalf of workers. The number of Trade Unions on the register of the Registrar of Trade Unions at the end of the year was 133, with a membership of 53,561. This represents an increase of one Union and 1,907 members over last year. Though some improvement in the keeping of accounts and maintenance of Union records was noted, there were still many important Unions which neglected to submit proper Returns to the Registrar.

The organisation of workers' Unions in Singapore has taken several forms: some are organised to represent employees in the employment of a certain employer, some to represent workers in a particular industry, some to represent workers of a certain race in a particular occupation, and some to represent all workers in a particular occupation. With the variety of races and linguistic sub-divisions within those races amongst the working population of Singapore, it is not surprising that Unions are numerous and usually small. Only in a few cases has any sort of co-ordination yet been achieved. This is illustrated by the following table showing the numbers of Unions in certain groups:—

<i>Industrial Group</i>	<i>Employers' Union</i>	<i>Workers' Union</i>
Manufacture and Repair of Metals, Machines, etc. . .	4	4
Manufacture of Clothing	2	5
Manufacture of Food, Drink and Tobacco	2	4
Woodworking; Manufacture of Cane, Furniture, etc. . .	2	2
Paper and Printing, etc.	2	5
Transport and Communication	8	29
Commerce and Finance	13	1
Personal Services	5	4
<i>Public Administration</i>		
(a) Defence	..	6
(b) Central Government	..	8
(c) Local Authorities	..	8
Total	38	76

There are three Federations of Workers' Unions, all in the Public Administration group, two of which were formed some years ago, and the third, the Singapore Federation of Government Employees, during the year under review. The Unions of workers employed by the Defence Services were prominent in Trade Union affairs during the year, and took a leading part in a further attempt, the fourth, to

form a central Trade Union organisation for the Colony. This move followed closely on a visit to the Colony of a delegation from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, sent here to explore the possibilities of granting assistance to local Trade Unions. In September, delegates from seventeen Unions attended an informal meeting convened by the President of the Army Civil Service Union and passed a resolution calling for the early establishment of a Trade Union Congress in Singapore. Many important Unions, the bulk of whose members are probably non-English speaking, did not send representatives to this meeting. Some of the latter Unions were reported to be in favour of establishing a Federation of Industrial and Manual Workers Trade Unions.

Although on the whole relations between employers and employed were good throughout the year, there were a number of disputes which required the services of the conciliation officers of the Department of Labour. It is the practice in such cases for the disputing parties to meet the conciliation officer on the neutral ground of the Labour Department building, though in some it is necessary for the officer himself to visit the place of work to obtain complete information as to the cause of the dispute. There was only one strike of any importance, during which 4,692 man-days were lost. This strike was conducted in an orderly manner by the Union concerned, the 14 days notice of strike required under the Emergency (Strikes and Lock-Outs) Regulations, 1948, having been given. This strike, which was declared by the Rediffusion Workers' Union, lasted 67 days but was a failure and resulted in the dissolution of the Union. There were indications that the Malayan Communist Party attempted to make use of this strike for their own purposes and during its course, a number of Rediffusion sets in shops were wilfully smashed. Of other acts of industrial sabotage by the Communist Party the most serious occurred on 27th July when the Aik Hoe Rubber Factory was completely destroyed by fire. Cases of arson also occurred in the Transport industry. The driver of one bus was shot at the wheel when he refused to stop on the order of a gang of four armed men who had boarded the bus. Public sympathy for his widow and orphan children was shown by the raising of a fund for their support, additional to the compensation paid by his employer.

The idea of discussion and compromise seems to have gained ground during the year. In the Rubber Mill agreements already referred to,

it was laid down that future wage changes should be freely negotiated. In the lighterage section of the Transport industry, a Joint Consultative Committee was established, composed of representative organisations of employers and workers. The main task of the Committee was to fix a uniform set of lighterage rates which would give a reasonable return to both lighter owners and workers and which would prevent the cut-throat competition that had been taking place in the industry as a result of a contraction in business. In spite of opposition from some groups of importers, general agreement was eventually reached and new rates were introduced as from 1st June.

There was an increase in the total number of workmen's compensation cases dealt with during the year by the Department of Labour, but a decrease in the fatal cases. Of the 2,132 cases reported to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, 57 were fatal, 90 were cases of permanent disablement and 1,985 were cases of temporary disablement. The total amount awarded was \$92,858.31. Progress was made during the year with a plan to re-train injured workmen, particularly those suffering from a permanent partial disablement, for an occupation in which their injury would not be a serious disadvantage. Local employers are being consulted concerning this plan, and their co-operation can be confidently expected.

Although 'in-plant' training is given by some concerns and Government Departments little attention has been paid hitherto to the vocational training of adults. The Technical (Trade) School caters for boys of secondary school age and gives three-year courses in such subjects as Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Plumbing and Radio Engineering. During the year, arrangements were made for boys who have completed the courses to continue their technical studies at evening classes.

The Children and Young Persons Ordinance, 1949, was brought into effect on 1st August. Under this Ordinance, the minimum age for the employment of children in any occupation was fixed at eight, and the minimum age for employment in a factory was fixed at fourteen. The Ordinance has special provisions covering children taking part in public entertainments; all children under seventeen years of age in such employment are required to hold a licence and must be medically examined. Only 8 out of 330 such children registered by the end of the year were found to be physically unfit or subject to ill-treatment.

The number of women employed as manual labourers on 30th September was 13,233, an increase of 2,463 or 18 per cent over the figure at the corresponding date last year. The number of women placed in employment in domestic service by the Employment Exchange was 1,804, an increase of 62 per cent compared with last year. This Exchange, which is run on a voluntary basis, appeared to increase in popularity during the year; 15,157 registered for employment, and 8,161 were successfully placed. The number of employers who availed themselves of the free services of the Exchange was 1,555. The demand for labour in certain occupations such as stenographers, book-keepers, typists, draughtsmen, carpenters, masons, painters, rivetters, boiler-makers and gardeners exceeded the supply available through the Exchange. The most difficult categories of workers to place in employment were: cashiers, Chinese clerks, receptionists, linotype operators, turners, laundrymen and tailors.

The Master Attendant has maintained a Registration Bureau for the engagement of seamen since 2nd January, 1949. The establishment of this Bureau did not altogether succeed in removing the abuses which have for so long accompanied the engagement of seamen, and a Commission of Inquiry was appointed on 25th July with the following terms of reference:—

‘To enquire diligently and fully into—

- (1) the establishment and the working of the Seamen's Registration Bureau constituted under the provisions of section 38 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance and the general conduct of its affairs;
- (2) the method of engagement of seamen in the Colony;
- (3) the constitution and duties of the Seafarers' Administration Board constituted under the provisions of section 39A of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance;
- (4) the practice of pre-selection of seamen by Masters of Ships through their own agents and the legality thereof;
- (5) the legality of the division of the Roster of unemployed seamen kept under the provisions of rule 9 of the Merchant Shipping (Seamen's Registration Bureau) Rules, 1948, into two parts, i.e., of seamen for deep sea and local ships respectively.’

The Report of the Commission had not been published by the end of the year.

There is provision in the Labour Ordinance of the Colony for the adjudication of disputes between employers and labourers relating to conditions or period of employment, to advances of goods or money, to wages or the keeping of accounts. Such disputes are heard by officers of the Labour Department, from whose decision an appeal may be made to the Courts. There is no doubt that this procedure,

which enables a labourer to obtain a decision with the minimum of delay and expense, is of real benefit to all manual workers and is an important factor contributing to the preservation of industrial peace in the Colony. During the year 256 cases were heard, and a total amount of \$125,671.40 was ordered to be paid to complainants.

The Labour Advisory Board continued to advise the Government on labour matters during the year. This Board is tripartite in character and has twelve members, four each representing Government, employers and workmen. The Commissioner for Labour is Chairman. One of the principal functions of the Board is to advise on labour legislation, and during the year under review it considered a new Labour Ordinance, a Workmen's Compensation Ordinance and a Wages Councils Ordinance. In the preparation of Labour legislation, consideration is given to the standards set by International Labour Organisation Conventions on such matters as hours of work, employment of women and children, payment of wages, and a variety of other matters affecting conditions of employment.

Singapore continued to co-operate with the International Labour Organisation in its studies of labour conditions in this area, and a delegation from the Colony attended the Asian Regional Conference held at Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon, in January.

IV

Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

General	1949 (Actual Figures)		1950 (Partly Estimated)	
	\$		\$	
Revenue	..	108,994,584	..	113,873,165
Expenditure	..	94,238,315	..	103,680,270
		14,756,269		10,192,895

The increase in revenue of \$4.9 million over that for the previous year may be attributed in the main to the introduction of increased duty in the second quarter of the year on tobacco, wines and spirits. Most other Revenue heads showed increases as a result of the greater prosperity enjoyed by the Colony due to the favourable trend in world prices for tin and rubber and the greater commercial activity thus engendered. Income Tax, which during 1949 was at a high level due to arrears of collection of 1948 assessments, fell by \$2 million below the record set in 1949, but was nevertheless \$1.9 million in excess of the sum originally estimated.

The increase in Expenditure, \$9.4 million, was accounted for almost entirely by increased expenditure on the social, educational and health services and by the revision of the salary scales of Government employees. The considerable reduction in expenditure disclosed under Miscellaneous Services is accounted for by the inclusion in the 1949 Accounts of a variety of non-recurrent items totalling approximately \$14 million of which the following are the most outstanding examples:—

	\$
(1) Contribution to War Risks (Goods) Insurance Fund ..	4,300,000
(2) Grant to Federation of Malaya	4,200,000
(3) Arrears of Salaries	951,000
(4) Grants to Raffles College and University of Malaya ..	1,000,000
(5) Singapore Improvement Trust Housing Grants ..	2,390,000
(6) Princess Elizabeth's Wedding Fund ..	500,000

The savings which would otherwise have been reflected in the 1950 services, were partially offset by the capital grant of \$5 million approved for the University of Malaya, and paid in December of the year under review.

Details of Revenue are shown hereunder:—

Hheads of Revenue	1949 (Actual Figures)		1950 (Partly Estimated)	
	\$ c.		\$ c.	
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise Classified:—	1949		1950	
	\$	c.	\$	c.
Liquors Revenue	12,076,227	60	13,325,567	00
Petroleum Revenue	9,325,927	24	10,295,559	00
Stamp Duties (various Revenue Services)	748,282	66	1,019,009	00
Tobacco Revenue	22,330,390	77	25,226,299	00
Entertainment Tax	2,936,562	50	3,382,849	00
Estate Duties	3,070,678	66	3,110,704	00
Income Tax	30,097,125	13	28,231,293	00
Totalisator and Sweepstakes ..	2,152,354	92	2,582,883	00
Miscellaneous	2,858,768	53	3,257,948	00
			85,596,318	01
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimburse-ments-in-aid	..	..	5,473,080	40
Posts and Telecommunications	..	..	7,703,070	35
Rents on Government Property	..	..	2,573,377	24
Interest:—	..	..	170,729	12
(a) Interest on Investments	..	..	..	..
(b) Interest from Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	..	..	2,027,671	01
(c) Other items	..	..	866,348	98
Miscellaneous Receipts	..	..	4,565,513	04
	..	..	108,976,108	15
Total exclusive of Land Sales	..	..	18,476	25
Land Sales and Premia Grants	..	..	..	..
	..	..	108,994,584	40
Total Revenue	..	..	113,873,165	00

EXPENDITURE, 1949 AND 1950

The particulars of expenditure are set out below:—

Hheads of Expenditure	1949		1950	
	\$		\$	
Administrative—General	..	5,341,462	..	6,171,448
Technical	..	3,609,509	..	4,590,590
Charge on account of Public Debt	..	8,092,857	..	8,092,857
Charitable Allowances and Contributions	..	83,958	..	89,325
Defence (Volunteer Forces)	..	2,669,809	..	3,512,917
Education	..	4,586,351	..	8,170,217
Judicial, Police and Prisons	..	9,553,657	..	10,336,226
Medical—General	..	7,709,400	..	8,275,562
Miscellaneous Services	..	33,552,327	..	25,417,923
Pensions, Allowances and Gratuities	..	4,591,563	..	4,820,572
Postal and Telecommunications	..	5,645,579	..	6,845,678
Public Works	..	5,859,146	..	12,714,854
Social Services	..	2,942,697	..	4,642,101
		94,238,315		103,680,270

LOANS

Description	Amount	Repayable (earliest)	Interest payable yearly
	\$		
(a) S. S. 3% Loan 1962/1972 ..	30,000,000	15th April, 1962	15th April; 15th October
(b) S. S. 3% War Loan 1952/1959 ..	25,000,000	1st Oct., 1952	April; October
(c) S. S. 3% War Loan 1953/1960 ..	10,000,000	15th July, 1953	15th January; 15th July
(d) S. S. War Savings Certificates ..	8,675,378	1st Sept., 1950	On encashment at any time
Total S. S. ..	73,675,378		
(e) Singapore 3% Rehabilitation Loan 1962/1970 ..	50,000,000	15th July, 1962	15th January; 15th July
Total S. S., Singapore ..	123,675,378		-

PUBLIC DEBT

The Straits Settlements 3 per cent Loan 1962/72 shown below at (a) is repayable by the Singapore and Penang Harbour Boards by whom charges for interest and Sinking Fund are paid. The Straits Settlements 3 per cent War Loan 1952/59 shown at (b), the Straits Settlements 3 per cent War Loan 1953/60 shown at (c) and Straits Settlements War Savings Certificates shown at (d) totalling \$43,675,378, represent free gifts to His Majesty's Government for the prosecution of the war. All charges for interest and Sinking Fund (and for the Straits Settlements War Savings Certificates encashment) are payable from the general revenue and assets of the Colony. The Singapore 3 per cent Rehabilitation Loan 1962/70 was intended to provide funds to meet extraordinary financial commitments arising out of the enemy occupation of Malaya or incidental to the economic rehabilitation of the Colony. The Straits Settlements 3 per cent Loan 1962/72, the Straits Settlements 3 per cent War Loan 1952/59, the Straits Settlements 3 per cent War Loan 1953/60 and the Straits Settlements War Savings Certificates indebtedness are subject to

apportionment with the Government of the Federation of Malaya on account of the post-war absorption of Penang and Malacca into Federal territory.

TAXATION

Changes in taxation rates during the year were restricted to increases in duty on tobacco and cigarettes from \$5.50 to \$6.70 per pound, whisky from \$32.50 to \$43.50 per gallon, and a decrease from \$5.00 to \$2.50 per pound on tobacco 'not otherwise provided for,' principally shag tobacco popular with the poorer classes of smokers.

The duty on sweepstakes was increased from 15 per cent to 20 per cent in the fourth quarter of the year and therefore had but negligible effect on the total collection during the year. In anticipation of Legislative Council approval of a reduction in entertainments duty in respect of 'live' performances, the Finance Committee of Legislative Council authorised refunds during the year of 50 per cent of the tax paid on such performances.

CUSTOMS TARIFF

Except for import duties imposed on intoxicating liquors, tobacco and petroleum, Singapore remained fundamentally a free port.

To facilitate the important entrepôt trade of the Colony, import duties on intoxicating liquors and tobacco are imposed at the time of release from bonded warehouses for local consumption. Import duties on petroleum are payable monthly in arrear after release from the dutiable petroleum stores.

The scales of import duties provide for imperial preference rates for brandy, wines, ale, beer, stout, porter, cider and perry; also for cigars and snuff, cigarettes, unmanufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco (excluding cigars, cigarettes and snuff) imported in containers of any kind for retail sale to the public.

With two exceptions (whisky and cigarettes) the Singapore scales of import duties were identical with the corresponding customs duties in the Federation of Malaya.

EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES

Excise duties are imposed on intoxicating liquors distilled or prepared in bond and released for local consumption. The excise duty for samsu is approximately fifteen per cent lower and for ale, beer,

stout, porter, cider, perry and other intoxicating liquors the excise duty is the same as the corresponding import duty at preferential rates. Samsu, beer and stout are the only intoxicating liquors made locally.

Entertainments duty continued to be charged at rates which have been in force since 1946. They are related to the price of admission and are on a sliding scale of five cents for a charge for admission between ten cents and twenty cents, rising to forty cents for a charge for admission between \$1 and \$1.50. Above the latter figure twenty cents is added for every increase of fifty cents in the charge for admission. The rates were under review at the end of the year.

The Stamp Ordinance provides for the imposition of a duty of 10 per cent on totalisator bets.

INCOME TAX

The rate of income tax chargeable in Singapore and the relief and allowances which are permitted are the same as to those in force in the Federation of Malaya. As can be seen from the second schedule of the Income Tax Ordinance, set out in full below, the 'slab' system of rates has been adopted for private individuals. The rate of tax upon companies is twenty per cent of every dollar of the chargeable income, but this rate has been increased by legislation in December, 1950 to 30 per cent on income which forms the basis for the year of assessment 1951 and onwards.

Schedule of rates of tax for individuals are:—

Chargeable Income	\$			Rate of Tax
For every dollar of the first	500	..	..	.. 3 per cent
For every dollar of the next	500	..	..	.. 4 per cent
For every dollar of the next	500	..	..	.. 5 per cent
For every dollar of the next	500	..	..	.. 6 per cent
For every dollar of the next	1,000	..	..	.. 7 per cent
For every dollar of the next	2,000	..	..	.. 8 per cent
For every dollar of the next	2,000	..	..	.. 10 per cent
For every dollar of the next	3,000	..	..	.. 12 per cent
For every dollar of the next	5,000	..	..	.. 15 per cent
For every dollar of the next	35,000	..	..	.. 20 per cent
For every dollar exceeding	50,000	..	..	.. 30 per cent

Since 1948 provision has been made for relief from double taxation in an Agreement concluded between His Majesty's Government and the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and Singapore.

The chargeable income to which the above table relates is the assessable income less deductions allowed as personal reliefs. Personal reliefs are allowed according to the following scale:—

	\$
Unmarried person	3,000
Married couple	5,000
Married couple with 1 child ..	5,750
Married couple with 2 children ..	6,250
Married couple with 3 children ..	6,750
Married couple with 4 children ..	7,050
Married couple with 5 children ..	7,350
thereafter \$200 per child up to a maximum of ..	8,150

The number of tax-payers including companies in Singapore in 1950 was in the region of 15,000.

ESTATE DUTY

The rates of estate duty form a graduated scale rising from one per cent to forty per cent according to the aggregate value of all the property liable to duty on the death. Under the Estate Duties (War Deaths) Remission Order, 1947, estate duty is totally remitted on the death of war casualties on the first \$40,000 of property passing to certain specified relatives.

The Estate Duties (Apportionment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, 1948, provides for the collection of estate duty in the special circumstances occasioned by the occupation of Malaya by the enemy and by the new constitutional changes to the former Straits Settlements. During the year the Estate Duties (Payment in Japanese Currency) Rules, 1950, were made under sections 7 (2) and 13 (1) of the Ordinance, whereby certain deposits made during the occupation can be revalued in accordance with the scale contained therein.

The Estate Duties (Emergency Deaths) Remission Order, 1950 was made under section 38 of the Estate Duty Ordinance (Chapter 227). This Order in substance is similar to the Estate Duties (War Deaths) Remission Order, 1947, and provides for a similar remission of duty on the death of casualties in both the Federation and the Colony during the present period of Emergency on the first \$40,000 of property passing to certain specified relatives.

CORPORATIONS DUTY

Corporations duty is imposed by way of compensation to the revenue for the non-liability to estate duty of certain property belonging to or vested in bodies corporate or unincorporate. Its collection is governed by the provisions of the Corporations Duty Ordinance (Chapter 229).

The duty is three per cent on the net annual value, income or profits of all moveable or immoveable property held by such bodies after deducting all necessary outgoings, charges and expenses properly incurred in the management of such property.

V

Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

CURRENCY issued by the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Malaya, is exclusively legal tender in the Colony and its dependencies, Christmas and Cocos Islands. The value of the Malayan dollar, which is on the sterling exchange standard, is fixed at 2s. 4d. The currency is also exclusively legal tender throughout the rest of Malaya and in Brunei and Labuan. Since the liberation it has been widely used in the Colonies of North Borneo and Sarawak, where it circulates as legal tender together with the local currencies of those territories. Steps are now well advanced to include these territories within the orbit of the new Currency Board which will then serve all British territories in South-East Asia. No figures of actual circulation can be given for Singapore and the figures given below refer to the total amount of Malayan currency in circulation, on the 31st December, 1950, in all the territories mentioned above including whatever amount may be circulating or held in adjoining foreign territories (principally in the Rhio Archipelago and South Siam).

				\$	c.
Notes	..	..	..	633,487,211	08
Silver Coin	..	..	..	23,260,291	45
Other Coin	..	..	..	13,020,034	05
Total				669,767,536	58

A considerable expansion in currency circulation has taken place during the year, due largely to the increase in the price of rubber. Deposits made into the Currency Fund in the form of sterling paid by Malayan Banks amounted to £27,485,000 during the year and the resultant expansion of Malayan currency was \$234,018,625.29. The currency circulation was also expanded to the extent of \$1,450,650 as a result of the withdrawal by the Government of Sarawak of their own currency for replacement by Malayan currency.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

The Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance, 1948, came into operation on the 1st day of January, 1949. The Savings Bank, which had hitherto covered the whole of the Straits Settlements, was divided by transferring the Penang and Malacca divisions to the Federation of Malaya and by the severance of the Labuan division. The new Rules under the Ordinance provide for the raising of the limit on Withdrawals on Demand from \$25 to \$50 and for Telegraph Withdrawal from \$100 to \$200.

The number of Depositors in the Singapore Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1950, was 80,686* as compared with 74,246† on the 31st December, 1949—an increase of 8.7 per cent. During the year, 10,039* New Accounts were opened, while 3,599* accounts were closed.

The amount standing to the credit of Depositors on the 31st December, 1950, exclusive of interest was \$28,306,845* as compared with \$26,772,985† on the 31st December, 1949. The average amount to the credit of each depositor was \$351* as compared with \$361† in 1949.

50,974 withdrawals on demand were made during the year as against 56,152 in 1949 and 805 withdrawals by telegraph as compared with 1,074 during 1949.

BANKING AND EXCHANGE

The following banks maintained establishments in the Colony during 1950:—

American Express Co., Incorporated
 Ban Hin Lee Bank
 Bank of China
 Banque de l'Indochine
 Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China
 †Chung Khiaw Bank, Ltd.
 Eastern Bank, Ltd.
 Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation
 Indian Bank, Ltd.

*Provisional figures for 1950.

†Figures for 1949 published in the printed Annual Report for that year were provisional. The final figures for 1949 are shown in this Report.

‡Banks incorporated in Singapore.

Indian Overseas Bank, Ltd.
 Kwangtung Provincial Bank
 *Kwong Lee Banking Co.
 †Lee Wah Bank, Ltd.
 Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.
 National City Bank of New York
 Nationale Handelsbank N. V.
 Netherlands Trading Society
 †Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Ltd.
 †Overseas Union Bank, Ltd.
 †Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Co., Ltd.
 †United Chinese Bank, Ltd.

A new bank, the Chung Khiaw Bank, Limited, was incorporated and opened for business in February with the intention of catering for the needs of the middle and lower classes of the Chinese community. In addition to the banks, there are 'Remittance Shops' operating under permit in Singapore for the transmission of family remittances to China particularly to areas where there are no banking facilities. Remittances to China during 1949 were low due to the disruption of communications in China, but in 1950 they increased steadily, especially from May onwards, until the monthly averages during the period August to October exceeded those of the peak year 1947.

*This bank is a partnership business registered in Singapore.
 ‡Banks incorporated in Singapore.

VI

Commerce

DURING 1950 Singapore maintained its position as the main commercial centre of South-East Asia and as the chief port of the Federation of Malaya of whose total imports and exports 73.48 per cent and 62.7 per cent respectively passed through Singapore. The export trade showed an increase in value of 135 per cent totalling \$2,483 million, compared with \$1,055 million in 1949. The value of imports was \$2,125 million as against \$1,305 million in 1949. No purely Singapore figures are available for the volume of trade but the following Pan-Malayan figures are significant. Taking 1938 as the base year, the index of volume of Pan-Malayan exports rose from 134 in 1949 to 175 while the index of volume of Pan-Malayan imports rose from 125 in 1949 to 170.

The main reason for increased exports was probably American stockpiling after the outbreak of the Korean War. Very strong demand for primary products raised their prices, for supply could not be immediately increased in proportion. This increase in the value of exports led (when the temporary currency shortage had been overcome) to an increased demand for imports. The increased money returns from exports counteracted the effect of devaluation, which had reduced the import demand for dollar goods. Detailed trade figures are given in the tables at the end of this chapter.

RUBBER

As a result of the continued expansion of industrial activity in the United States of America and elsewhere, and big purchases of rubber by Russia, rubber prices rose steadily during the first part of the year from a level of approximately 50 cents per pound No. 1 R.S.S. f.o.b. to 95 cents in early June. Prices rose sharply after the outbreak of

hostilities in Korea at the end of June to reach a peak level of \$2.35 per pound in November, but fell again towards the end of the year. Total exports amounted to 655,025 tons as compared with 484,849 tons in 1949.

TIN

Exports of metallic tin totalled 35,855 tons compared with 23,933 tons last year. As with rubber, the rise in prices in the first part of the year reflected the steady expansion of industry in the United States of America and other countries. After the outbreak of war in Korea the sudden growth of demand due to extensive purchases for the American stockpile and the rebuilding of commercial and industrial stocks, resulted in record tin prices, reaching £1,280 a ton in November, and £1,265 in December.

COPRA

Copra prices rose steadily during 1950 from an average January price of \$35.45 per picul to an average December price of \$45.19 per picul. Imports totalled 102,417 tons and exports 104,981 tons compared with 98,713 tons and 77,198 tons respectively in 1949. The trend continued for European countries to buy copra for milling rather than coconut oil.

TEXTILES

The imports of piecegoods rose from 197.3 million square yards in 1949 to 400.9 million square yards in 1950. Re-exports rose from the 1949 figure of 72.2 million square yards to 224.39 square yards. Imports from India formed a larger proportion of total imports of textiles. This was due to more competitive prices as a result of the conclusion of exclusive agreements between Indian manufacturers and Singapore buyers.

OTHER IMPORTS

Sugar and ration grades of rice continued to be procured solely on Government account. Commercial dealings were permitted in respect of non-ration grades of rice and of sugar substitutes such as jaggery and rock sugar. On 1st September, 1950, the importation of wheat flour reverted to commercial procurement and quotas for the importation of the Colony's allocation of flour from Australia under

the International Wheat Agreement were distributed to merchants on the basis of their pre-war imports.

The supply of butter from Australia improved during the year and increased imports enabled the rationing of butter to consumers to be abolished. Cheese also was in much better supply from Australia and Europe and it was possible to license imports more freely.

INDONESIAN TRADE

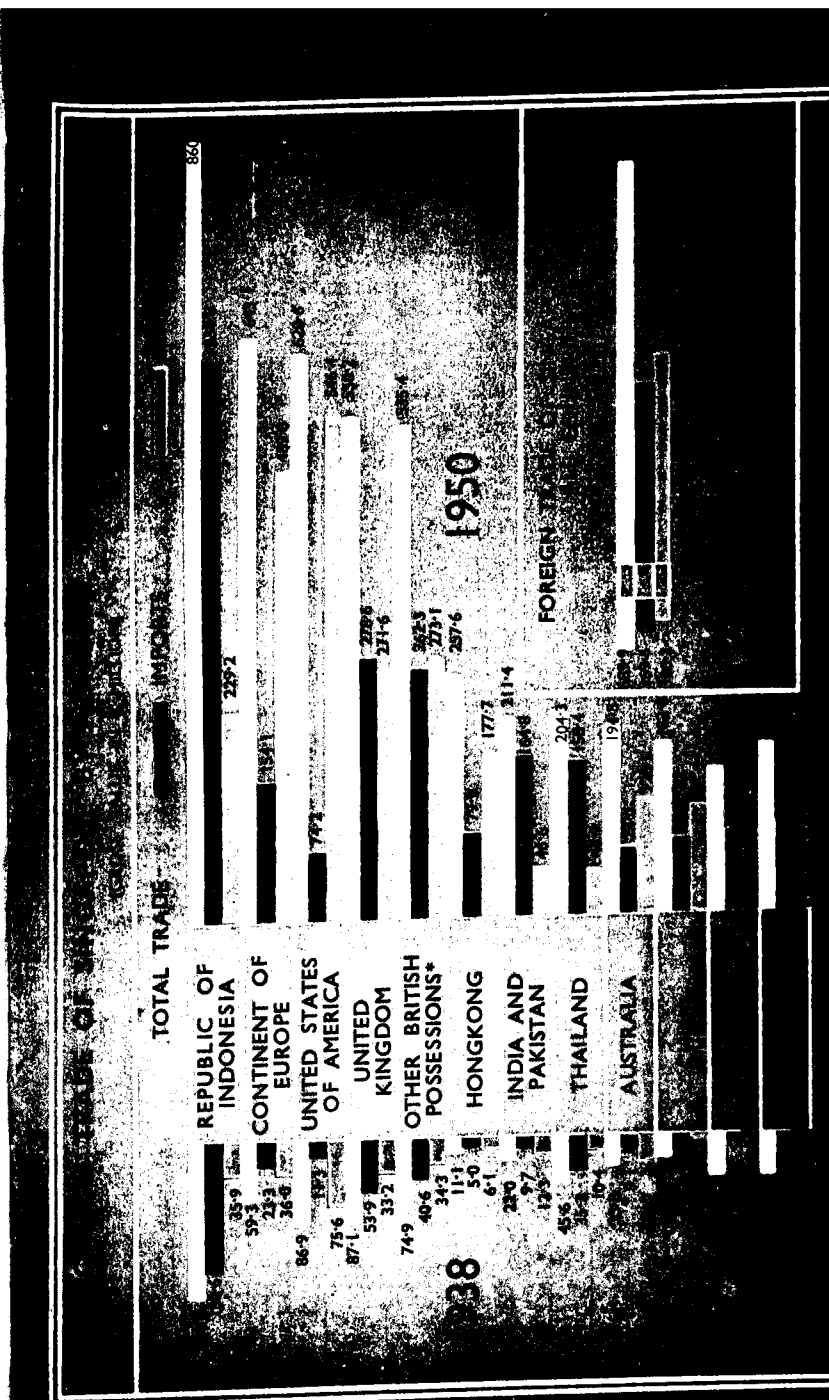
Barter trade continued in those ports which lacked banking facilities, notably in East and Central Sumatra. Trade with Indonesia, so often taken as an index of Singapore's strength, had a record value in November, 1950. This was mainly attributable to higher prices drawing more rubber into Singapore.

TRADE WITH JAPAN

Under a trade agreement between the United Kingdom and S.C.A.P., Japan, covering trade between the Sterling Area and Japan for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1950, import quotas were distributed to Singapore merchants to the value of over \$25 million. Most of these goods had been imported by the end of the year. A trade agreement covering trade for the year ending 30th June, 1951, was not signed until 29th November, 1950. In August, however, preliminary import quotas valued at almost \$24 million were distributed to Singapore merchants and goods, mainly textiles, had begun to arrive. After the conclusion of the agreement, quotas for the importation of textiles to the value of a further \$10 million were distributed.

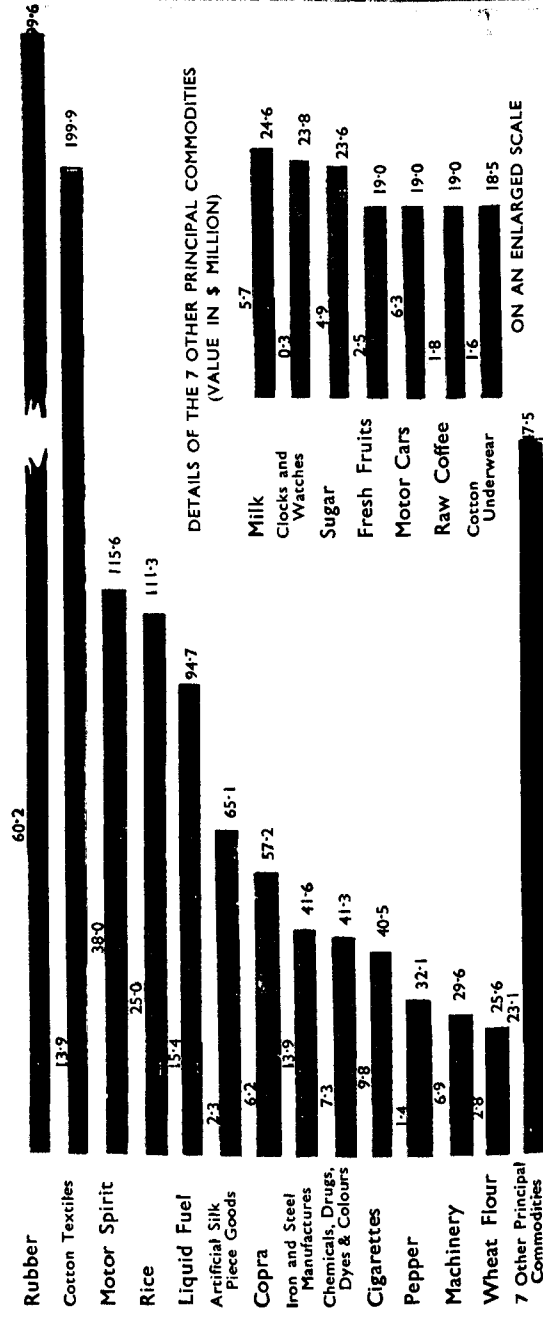
IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL

Singapore as a member of the Sterling Area, continued throughout the year to restrict imports from hard-currency countries to goods essential to the economic life of the territory. Following upon the formation of the European Payments Union, however, it was possible to adopt a more liberal policy in respect of licences to import goods from Portugal, Belgium, Western Germany and Switzerland. Direct imports in 1950 from the United States of America, American Account countries and Canada amounted to \$79,628,230 compared with over \$83,088,153 in 1949.

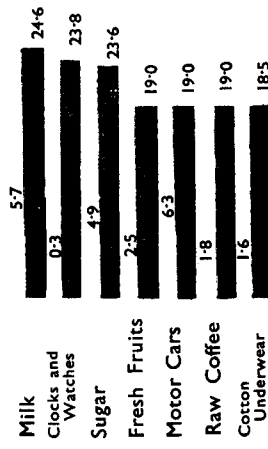


PRINCIPAL OVERSEAS IMPORTS OF SINGAPORE: 1938 & 1950 (VALUE IN \$ MILLION)

1938 1950



DETAILS OF THE 7 OTHER PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES
(VALUE IN \$ MILLION)

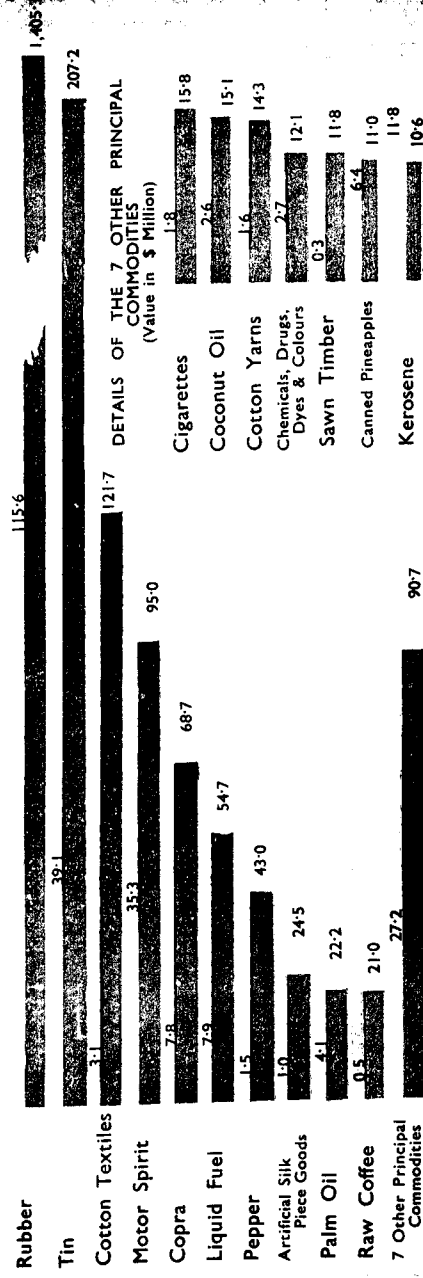


ON AN ENLARGED SCALE

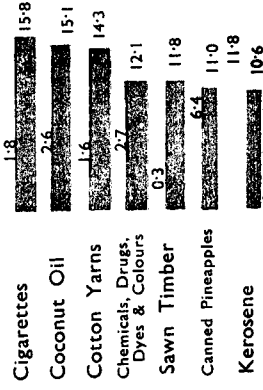
NOTE: Imports from the Federation of Malaya are not included in these figures.

PRINCIPAL OVERSEAS EXPORTS OF SINGAPORE: 1938 & 1950 (VALUE IN \$ MILLION)

1938 1950



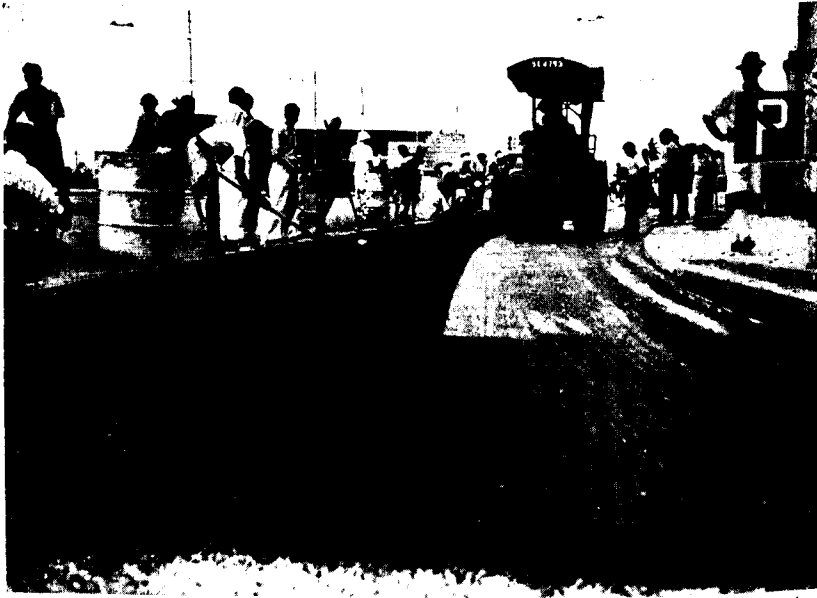
DETAILS OF THE 7 OTHER PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES
(Value in \$ Million)



ON AN ENLARGED SCALE

NOTE: Exports to the Federation of Malaya are not included in these figures. Exports include Re-Exports.

With the improvement in the supply position of most goods, there was a general easing of export controls. Towards the end of the year, however, due to the rearmament programme in the United Kingdom and America, it was necessary to re-impose export controls on a number of goods, such as steel manufactures, building materials and tyres, replacements of which became difficult to obtain.



Public Relations

Natural rubber powder and latex were combined with the asphalt mixture used to repair Fullerton Road which carries heavy traffic, in a test for durability



Public Relations

Paint manufacture is one of the flourishing secondary industries of Singapore.

VII

Production

THE SMALL area of the island of Singapore naturally restricts the raising of crops and animal husbandry. The limited area of non-territorial waters accessible to Singapore fishermen results in local catches being insufficient to meet the local demand for fish and necessitates purchase from merchants of neighbouring islands. Singapore is not a primary producer of timber but, as a major trading centre in a region where there are many timber producing countries, the Island possesses a flourishing sawmill and forest products processing trade.

AGRICULTURE

The types of crops grown are vegetables, rubber, coconuts, pineapples, tobacco and pepper.

The quantity of vegetables produced in 1950 was slightly less than in the previous year and prices generally have been slightly higher. An investigation into this decrease indicated that in parts of the island the smallholders were attracted by high wages to work as labourers in other occupations near their homes and had thus become only part-time farmers. Even where only casual labour was available, many found it sufficiently remunerative to leave the main cultivation of their holdings to their wives and children.

The very attractive price throughout the year was responsible for a large increase in production of rubber and many areas were brought into tapping which formerly had not been considered worth the labour. There was a certain amount of over-tapping in some areas, but the general maintenance of the land under rubber improved.

A reduction in the yield of coconuts was believed to be due to the clearing and replanting of some holdings. An increase in the tapping for toddy also led to a fall in coconut production. The rearing of ducks tended to go in hand with the cultivation of coconuts as the palms provide shade for the birds whilst the nuts form a substantial part of

their food. The average price ex-holdings throughout the year was \$140 per thousand nuts, an increase of \$30 per thousand over the price prevailing in 1949.

The main crop of pineapples harvested during May to July was a good one, the average yield being about 4,500 lb. per acre, and the price of pines averaged 3.2 cents per lb. delivered to the canneries. Other fruit crops were poor but this had little effect on prices as supplies arriving from the Federation of Malaya were normal.

The area planted with tobacco and the volume of the crop showed an increase during the year. The price rose from \$220 to a maximum of \$270 per picul in April, and the average monthly price was about \$230.

The high price of pepper which prevailed during the year aroused much interest in this crop; it was planted in several parts of the island and the plants made satisfactory growth. This development was, however, limited by the scarcity and high price of planting material, the cost of cuttings ranging from fifty cents to a dollar each.

The cultivation of tuba root again decreased in favour of vegetables and in its place cultivators were using more proprietary sprays containing D.D.T. and benzene hexachloride. It has been found that these chemical sprays are more effective than the home-prepared tuba and this reason rather than the shortage of tuba has led to the change. The use of the new types of spray has brought about an improvement in crops, especially in tobacco growing areas and in some vegetable growing districts.

The collection of plants in the Agricultural Station was increased and the Station was maintained satisfactorily. The Department of Agriculture carried out an increased number of inspections of plants and produce for export and great use was made of the fumigation facilities offered by the Department. A fertiliser trial on vegetables was made by the Agricultural Officer in conjunction with a firm of chemical manufacturers of international repute.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The Veterinary Department was engaged throughout the year in its two main functions, firstly, in preventing the introduction of disease into the country and the control of indigenous disease and, secondly, taking steps to ensure adequate supplies of slaughter animals for consumption by the local market.

During the year no serious outbreaks of disease among animals occurred. This was due largely to the prohibition of the import of animals into Singapore from areas or countries in which diseases were known to exist. Although this is the most effective method of maintaining the Colony's record of virtual freedom from serious diseases, it limits the sources of supply of meat animals to only a few areas in South-East Asia and Australia, and prevents competitive importations which might induce lower retail prices. The construction of new Quarantine Stations to enable imports to be extended to more countries of supply, was under consideration. The campaign against Ranikhet disease in chickens continued on an increased scale most successfully; 832,071 birds were inoculated free of charge by the Veterinary Department. The campaign increased poultry production very considerably and led to material benefit and prosperity among poultry rearers. Local production of poultry and pigs continued to provide a useful contribution to the food supply of Singapore. Singapore was self-supporting in the supply of poultry and exports were made to towns in the Federation of Malaya. Approximately 90 per cent of Singapore's fresh meat supplies were produced in Singapore Island and South Johore in the form of pork, but in order to supply other consumers of fresh meat in accordance with their respective preferences, sheep, cattle and goats are imported on the hoof, for consumption locally and in the Federation of Malaya. During the year there was difficulty in securing supplies even at high prices. High prices of wool in Australia reduced supplies of Australian sheep in particular. Inadequate local production and the shortage of imported supplies combined to maintain the generally high retail prices of meat.

FORESTRY

The sawmilling and other allied industries with which the Department of Forestry is mainly concerned, experienced a somewhat disturbed year, for although the raw material import was not only maintained but showed an increase over the 1949 figures, the heavy building programme in Singapore and the overseas demand rendered this increase inadequate to meet all requirements. This ill-balanced supply and demand situation caused an abnormally high level in prices generally throughout the year, the fluctuations in the purchase price of logs reaching peak periods in March and November. At these periods the major sawmills agreed to work only a five day week in

order to conserve log stocks. This action was to some extent successful in stabilising prices as the very strong demand induced an increase in imports which in turn reduced prices.

Unrest in Indonesia, Singapore's leading supplier of timber, and general transport difficulties hampered progress but the fact that trade had increased in volume despite these difficulties indicated its increasing importance to the economy of the territory. Important additions were made during the year to productive capacity; one major pre-war mill was completely rehabilitated and re-opened in April adding some 1,500 tons per month to the available sawn material. Additions were made to the machinery at another large mill and two entirely new projects were initiated, one of which was concerned with log sawing and the other with the production of plywood. These two mills have been erected in Pasir Panjang and were thus the first to break away from the traditional timber milling area at Kallang.

The total sawn timber export figure for the year again showed an increase over previous years since the war. Comparative figures (in tons of 50 cubic feet) are:—

Year		Tons
1947	..	.. 16,152
1948	..	.. 33,564
1949	..	.. 58,946
1950	..	.. 87,145

Included in the figure for 1950 are tonnages graded in Singapore under the Malayan Grading Rules which were introduced in 1949. The general acceptance of these rules by overseas markets indicated their suitability to Malayan timbers from the buyers' point of view, but, in the light of experience and trade requirements, minor amendments and additions were considered during the year and will be incorporated in a new edition of the rules.

Up to October 1949, the grading of timber for the high class discriminating markets overseas was done entirely by Forest Department Inspectors. Since then, a system of private grading with an official check has been developed and during 1950 this system reached significant proportions. In the latter part of the year, some 54 per cent of the material exported to markets requiring grading was dealt with by the exporting firms' private grading staffs, the material being check-graded by the Forest Department. This system was an important step forward in the organisation of the high-class trade and, with

additions to the Forest Department Inspectorate, very largely overcame the inadequacy of grading facilities experienced in the early part of the year.

During the year, the quantity of timber graded in and exported from Singapore amounted to 24,119 tons, the largest importing country being the United Kingdom which took 75 per cent of the total, the remainder going to Australia, South Africa, Holland and Hong Kong with a small experimental consignment to the United States of America. The rapid development of the export trade in graded material since the war is shown in the following figures:—

*Timber graded in, and exported from, Singapore
(in tons of 50 cubic feet)*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tons</i>
1947	75
1948	1,123
1949	6,133
1950	24,119

This very large increase in the volume of graded timber passing over the wharves of the Singapore Harbour Board gave rise to a serious problem of storage while awaiting shipment. As this timber was partially seasoned before inspection to avoid 'degrade' during the voyage overseas, any delay in shipping and storage under adverse weather conditions in the open nullified this precaution. Serious consideration, therefore, was given to the construction of transit sheds in the harbour area specially for the storage of timber and, at the end of the year, fair progress had been made towards the implementation of a scheme agreeable to the Harbour Board authorities and the timber trade. In the initial stages, the scheme was intended to cater only for Malayan sawn timber going to the high class markets, but it was hoped that it could be extended in due course to deal with non-graded Malayan timber for Eastern markets and also for other material passing through the port of Singapore on transshipment.

FISHERIES

The importance of fish and fish products in the diet of the peoples of South-East Asia has long been recognised, and the rapid increase in the population of Singapore has emphasized the need for the increased production of fish, an increase which can be achieved only by tapping areas beyond the already fully exploited territorial waters.

During 1950 local catches provided only 3,096.9 tons or 30.4 per cent of the total handlings in the auction markets, the remainder being imported from adjacent areas of surplus production. Local methods of fishing, which include fishing stakes (*kelongs*), driftnets (*jaring hanyut*), beach seines (*pukat tarek*) and portable fish traps (*bubus*) are effective but the almost complete absence of mechanised power in the producer industry continued to limit the range of operations and restrict the size of the gear which could be employed.

The principal areas from which supplies are obtained for the markets of Singapore are the State of Johore and the Rhio Residency of Indonesia. Imports from the former showed a steady improvement, excepting those from the South Coast in which there was a heavy fall in the latter half of the year. Landings from Indonesia continued to decrease, mainly as a result of the increasing difficulties which beset Singapore operators in those areas. Nevertheless landings from all sources totalled 10,179.2 tons in 1950 compared with 10,163.9 tons for the preceding year.

The danger of loss of supplies imported from areas beyond the political boundaries of Singapore necessitates the development of the local industry to enable this Colony to be self sufficient in this respect. Such development can, however, be achieved only by increased operations in the open sea fisheries, an area with which the local fishermen are ill-acquainted. Provision was made during the year for a two-year survey of the fisheries and fishing industry with the object of devising methods by which the producer and allied marketing industries could be improved and developed. The survey commenced in July, 1950 and an increased staff and improved facilities were provided for the Fisheries Department. The most noteworthy addition was the provision of echo-sounding equipment for the detection of fish.

During 1950, 4,967 fishermen were licensed and about 270 persons were employed in the ancillary industries of net repairing and the erection of fishing stakes. 1,831 fishing boats, including 196 power-propelled boats which were almost entirely employed as fish carriers, were licensed during the year. The number of fishing gears licensed decreased from 1,299 in 1949 to 1,239 in 1950. The increase in the number of licensed fishermen and in non-powered fishing boats reflected improved licensing. The decrease in the number of powered boats was the result of increased restrictions on the collection of fish

from the waters of Indonesia. The small reduction in the number of licensed fishing gears followed alteration of administrative practice and in actual fact masked a significant increase.

The retail price of fresh fish which showed a steady decline to the end of 1949, rose sharply during the year. This was most marked for the higher grades, which were in greater demand as a result of the increased prosperity of the Colony. Singapore fishermen benefitted in turn and preliminary investigations showed that they received 60 to 80 per cent of the retail price depending upon the locality at which the fish was landed. On the other hand the prices of all fishing materials, excluding hooks, also rose sharply, the increase being particularly marked in the case of cotton materials, ropes and galvanised wire.

The trade in salt dried fish showed a marked improvement during 1950 and imports were the highest in both quantity and value for the post-war period. This trade was, however, only one quarter of the volume of that in the years 1938 to 1940. Exports to other areas, excluding the Federation of Malaya, were double those for 1949 but were still only a fraction of their pre-war volume.

Basic research into the biology of the fisheries of the Singapore Straits was continued during the year and it is anticipated that the establishment of a Regional Marine Research Station on the Island will provide the fundamental knowledge of the seas and marine life of this region which is essential to the rational development of the fisheries. Financial provision for this Institution, which will serve all the British territories in South-East Asia, was provided during the year.

INDUSTRIES

Many new industrial companies commenced production during the year, adding to the existing diversity of industries in the Colony, and several companies increased the range and variety of their products.

Aluminium Goods

The manufacture of aluminium articles from aluminium sheet underwent a substantial expansion during the year. One large European firm and a number of smaller Chinese concerns produced a monthly average of approximately 25 tons of household utensils and rubber estate equipment much of which was exported. The production of aluminium cooking pots out of scrap aluminium and aluminium alloy

obtained from damaged aircraft and other surplus war material, came to an end with the exhaustion of sources of supply.

Asbestos/Cement Products

The production of asbestos cement roofing and sheeting continued. One firm produced and marketed pre-fabricated all-asbestos/cement units suitable for artisans' and labourers' quarters.

Beverages

Local breweries worked to capacity and it is particularly gratifying to record that one company received a double award at the Brewery Exhibition in London when it was awarded the Championship Gold Medal for the best beer or stout brewed in the Empire and also the First Prize Silver Medal for the best beer in the light ale and lager class. Numerous companies were engaged in the production of mineral waters and cordials and an innovation was the establishment of bottling plants for certain proprietary brands of American 'soft' drinks.

Biscuits

Apart from one or two brief periods when temporary shortages of flour and sugar curtailed production, biscuit factories in the Colony worked steadily during 1950 and satisfied increased demands for biscuits from all classes of the community.

Boat Building

Small craft of all types from sampans, which are much used for the carriage of passengers and baggage to and from shipping in the Roads, to motor cruisers designed for pleasure purposes, and high speed launches, needed by the Customs, Immigration, Police, and other government departments both in Singapore and the surrounding territories, were built and launched from Singapore.

Building Materials

The local demand for cement flooring tiles and garden furniture manufactured with a cement basis was met throughout the year from local production.

Commercial Gases

Locally produced gases include oxygen as liquid or gas, dissolved acetylene, hydrogen, nitrogen, cyclo-propane, nitrous oxide and

mixtures of various gases required by the Medical Services. A special quality of compressed oxygen for use in high-flying aircraft was also in production.

The factory producing commercial gases which is the most modern in the Far East, is equipped for training operators in the use of all types of apparatus for the welding, joining, cutting and treatment of metals by oxy/acetylene and electric arc processes, and possesses a lecture theatre where students learn the technicalities involved in applying the processes and see instructional films which help to raise the training to a very high standard.

Confectionery

Local demand for confectionery increased: and another factory was established capable of producing 100 tons of sweets per month on a mass production basis. New plant and technical staff for this factory were brought from England.

Electric Batteries

Approximately 800 persons were directly employed in the production of dry cell batteries required for use in flash-lights and wireless receivers. The output of batteries was sufficient to supply all the needs of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya and considerable quantities have been exported to Asian and African countries.

Films

Seven feature films in Malay and a number of newsreels of local interest were produced. The quality of printing, recording and titling continued to improve.

Footwear

Nearly 2,000 persons were directly employed in the manufacture of footwear and the output of rubber canvas shoes, which is the main product, amounted to nearly four million pairs. Leather shoes were made largely from materials imported from Commonwealth countries. Export trade particularly of the crepe-soled shoes steadily increased throughout the year.

Metal Containers

The clearing of the site for a large modern factory for the manufacture of metal containers from sheet tinplate began in March 1950

and the factory was nearing completion at the end of the year. This factory will be able to meet not only the needs of the local pineapple canneries but also those of many other industries in South-East Asia.

Glassware

The local glass industry continued to produce both glass bottles and tableware and the application of coloured ceramic labels to bottles was started on a large scale.

Oils and Fats

There was no great change in the production of cooking oil, soap and margarine during the year: copra, the raw material, was available in ample quantities.

Petroleum Products

Singapore is the largest centre in the East for the blending and transshipment of oils to countries throughout the world. Pulau Bukom, an island situated 3 miles from the mainland, has a population of nearly 3,000 persons engaged in the handling of petroleum products and the manufacture of 4-gallon kerosene tins. There are about 60 bulk storage tanks of various sizes on the island which are inter-connected with 21 miles of pipeline and since 5 deep sea wharves are available, Pulau Bukom is an important centre for the bunkering of vessels operating in Eastern waters. During the past year some 480 tankers called at Pulau Bukom, and some 650 ships were bunkered there. In addition, over 3,000 ships were bunkered in the Roads by lighters which loaded at Pulau Bukom. The total quantity of oil handled on this island amounted to 1,704,000 tons.

Pineapple Canneries

Three pineapple canneries operated in Singapore throughout the year and produced 189,958 cases of canned pineapple representing 33 per cent of the total Malayan production. The corresponding figures for 1949 were 118,373 cases and 36 per cent. Demand from overseas markets was well maintained and prices showed an upward tendency throughout the year, the export value of Singapore production being approximately \$4,030,000 as compared with \$2,300,000 in 1949. The principal markets for the pack were the United Kingdom, the continent of Europe, New Zealand, Canada, Australia and the Middle East. Considerable progress was made in the mechanization

of production methods and, at the end of the year, two of the three canneries were operating fully automatic modern lines of processing machinery. The bulk of the fruit used for canning was obtained from South Johore, but appreciable supplies were received from the small plantations in Singapore and the neighbouring islands.

Plastic Goods

The manufacture of plastic goods developed in two ways. Firstly, in the manufacture of moulded goods from different types of plastic compounds and secondly, in the fabrication or building up of articles from sheet and rods of plastic material.

Rattan and Cane Furniture

The manufacture of cane furniture continued during the past year; new and original designs which were introduced for the first time since the war, led to an increased local demand. Attempts to build up an export trade have so far failed on account of import restrictions in the prospective consumer countries.

Rubber Equipment

The standard requirements for rubber equipment of engineering works, building works, shipbuilding, railways and for general domestic uses were met from local production. The latest addition to the uses of rubber has been the manufacture of corrugated rubber roofing; this product competed in price with corrugated iron and corrugated asbestos/cement sheets until the great increase in the price of raw rubber in the latter months of the year.

Rubber Powder was made under licence from the Dutch Research Station in Java and the output capacity of the pilot plant in existence in Singapore was approximately 50 tons per month. The powder with an asphalt mixture, has been under test as a road surface in Singapore and has been exported for tests in Great Britain, the United States of America and Australia. The manufacturing plant in the Colony is capable of considerable expansion but the high price of rubber towards the end of the year made the use on a large scale of rubber powder/asphalt mixture for road construction far too costly.

Steel, Concrete and Earthenware Pipes

Very considerable quantities of both steel concrete lined and spun concrete pressure pipes required for Municipal trunk and subsidiary

water mains were produced locally. The increased demand for earthenware pipes both for local and overseas use led to the expansion of Singapore's pottery works.

Steel Tanks and Drums

Large steel tanks for rail and road transport of latex were manufactured in considerable quantities in the Colony during the year. In addition a local company produced considerable quantities of forty-four gallon steel containers for petroleum, palm oil and latex.

Vehicles Assembly

The assembly of commercial and private vehicles, carried on mainly in conjunction with garage businesses, constitutes a considerable industry. The premises of firms carrying out these assemblies were equipped with modern machinery including overhead and mobile cranes, conveyor tracks, paint ovens, paint spray booths, hydraulic rivetting equipment, automatic welders and high speed electrical tools.

Wire and Wire Netting

The great demand for barbed wire arising out of the Emergency in the Federation of Malaya, induced manufacturers of wire netting to turn part of their production to this item.

VIII

Social Services

A—EDUCATION

THE 1949 edition of this Report referred to some of the first steps taken to implement the Ten Year Education Plan, including the introduction of free education for all first year pupils in primary schools, the appointment of a Principal for the proposed Teachers' Training College and the training of more teachers. In 1950 the detailed schemes prepared under the Ten Year Plan and under the Five Year Supplementary Plan, which was approved towards the end of 1949, gained momentum and provided concrete evidence of the expressed intention to provide within ten years free, universal and compulsory education for all children of school age. Eighteen new buildings under the Supplementary Plan were completed and were used by 25 (double session arrangements) new Government English Primary Schools; 5 new buildings were opened for Malay Schools and 4 Regional Schools under the Ten Year Plan were in the course of erection. At the same time the number of schools maintained or aided by public funds increased from 163 in 1949 to 213 in 1950. An existing building was acquired to house the Teachers' Training College which was opened in March.

In combination with other measures these steps enabled an increase of some 17,000 students over the 1949 figure giving a total enrolment in all registered schools of 132,563. To this figure must be added a further 3,249 children in Chinese schools which had not yet been registered, 700 children in Arabic religious schools which are not inspected by the Department of Education and 6,503 students, some adult, who attend the registered 'miscellaneous' institutions such as commercial and night schools for languages. Neither does the total include 381 students who were in full-time attendance at institutions for higher education of whom 294 were at the University of Malaya. Details of enrolment are given in tabular form on the following page.

ENROLMENT IN SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, 1950

ENROLMENT IN SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS					
Medium of Instruction	No. of Schools	NUMBER OF PUPILS			Percentage of Total
		Boys	Girls	Total	
<i>A. Schools maintained or Aided from Public Funds</i>					
English ..	73	22,681	11,670	34,351	39.6
Chinese ..	73	29,103	13,646	42,749	48.8
Malay ..	43	5,714	2,722	8,436	9.7
Indian ..	23	738	748	1,486	1.7
Junior Technical (Trade) School ..	1	169	..	169	.1
Total ..	213	58,405	28,786	87,191	..
<i>B. Private Schools</i>					
English ..	58	9,854	5,316	15,170	33.5
Chinese ..	214	22,670	7,532	30,202	66.5
Total ..	272	32,524	12,848	45,372	..
Total registered Schools	485	90,929	41,634	132,563	..
Other registered institutions ..	32	5,153	1,350	6,503	..
Total registered institutions ..	517	96,082	42,984	139,066	..
<i>Schools not registered or exempt from inspection</i>					
Chinese ..	15	2,397	852	3,249	..
Arabic ..	6	374	326	700	..
Total ..	21	2,771	1,178	3,949	..
Grand Total ..	538	98,853	44,162	143,015	..

In comparison with the estimated enrolment figure for 1941 of 72,000, the present total is impressive but there is still much leeway to be made up; the total child population of Singapore in 1950 was estimated to be 222,000 (115,000 boys and 107,000 girls) of whom 83,000 boys and 58,000 girls (total 161,000) were of primary school age and 32,000 boys and 29,000 girls (total 61,000) of secondary school age. By 1960 the child population may well reach a total of 300,000.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Singapore Education Committee, an advisory body constituted in 1949, continued the useful work to which reference was made in last year's report. The deliberations of its sub-committees have led to many recommendations being accepted by the administration on such varied matters as school fees, visual aids and technical education.

The professional administration was carried on by the Director of Education assisted by a staff of administrative and inspecting officers. The second conference of senior Education Officers of British territories in South-East Asia was held in Singapore in September 1950, when problems common to the territories concerned were discussed and appropriate action initiated.

The finances of the Education Department are supervised by the Education Finance Board which scrutinises the annual estimates before they are submitted to the Legislative Council. The nett cost to Government had risen from \$4,725,000 in 1948 to \$6,817,000 in 1949; in 1950 the contribution from Government funds on account of education, including capital costs, had risen to just over \$10,000,000 while gross expenditure totalled \$11,230,000. The additional \$1,230,000 was met by the proceeds of an Education Rate, school fees in Government English schools, and some miscellaneous receipts. The major item in the increased expenditure was the cost of the expansion of educational facilities, particularly the first instalment of the Supplementary Plan. The schools erected under this Plan fall into the system of English education where the scope of instruction is almost identical with that pertaining in schools in the United Kingdom. One valuable feature of this system is the existence of the Aided English Schools, largely controlled by the various religious missions, which were almost the undisputed occupants of the field of English

education in Singapore until the beginning of the present century. There is a very happy partnership between the Government and the Aided English School authorities. The latter have given assistance to the Education Department in the staffing of new schools and are, in some cases, taking active steps to set up new schools as their contribution to the Ten Year Plan.

Although attention has been focussed upon the spread of English education there were also notable increases in the number of children attending vernacular schools. There has been a nett increase of over 2,500 children in attendance in Chinese schools while the Malay and Indian schools also show an increase over the 1949 enrolment. The parents of Singapore have shown an increased desire for educational facilities for their children and although there are still some who insist on vernacular education, the present indications are that the majority of parents prefer their children to be educated in English Schools and would fulfil their preference if accommodation were available.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

169 boys were in attendance at the Junior Technical (Trade) School and over 700 adults attended evening classes in the school to improve their technical skill. Courses were given in general mechanics, motor mechanics, domestic and sanitary engineering, radio mechanics and electrical mechanics. Plans were made to lower the age of entry to the school in 1951 and to give a larger measure of general education, thus preparing boys for entry into the apprenticeship stage of their employment at an earlier age than has been usual. A site was selected for a second technical school for possible erection in 1952.

FURTHER EDUCATION

The University of Malaya held its first convocation in July when five honorary degrees were conferred and seventy-two new graduates admitted by the Chancellor, His Excellency the Commissioner-General. The numbers of staff and students increased and further expansion is limited only by accommodation.

In pursuance of the policy laid down in Command Paper No. 197 a total of thirty-two students were awarded scholarships and left Singapore to take up their studies abroad. The scholars were drawn

from the Broadcasting, Civil Aviation, Education, Labour, Medical, Police, Postal, Public Works, Statistical and Survey Departments, as well as from the Municipality. The number of private students entering universities in the United Kingdom and Australia decreased compared with 1949, probably on account of the increased enrolment in the University of Malaya and the early recruitment of probationer teachers by the Department of Education.

ADULT EDUCATION

Vocational training for adults continued to make steady progress receiving valuable assistance from the People's Education Association, the Rural District Committees and other organisations working for the advancement of the individual; some of these bodies were encouraged in their efforts by financial assistance from Government. Of equal importance was the fast-growing interest in the problems of literacy and other non-vocational forms of adult education which are concerned more with development of personal abilities and aptitudes and the encouragement of social, moral and intellectual responsibility. The enrolment in literacy classes and the stimulation given to interest in civic, economic and social affairs by discussions, lectures and debates was more than satisfactory. It was clear, however, that the many individual efforts required co-ordination and assistance; the appointment of an officer of the Education Department whose special concern is adult education and the establishment in December of a Council for Adult Education were aimed to meet this need. The Council is an unofficial body representing a union of the University and the active community organisations working in this field together with individual experts. The Council will be granted financial aid by Government.

TEACHER TRAINING

An important step was the opening in March of the Teachers' Training College which is designed to produce the men and women who will be required to staff the English schools opened under the two Plans, and to raise the standards of teaching generally. The existence of the College resulted in an increase in the number of prospective English School teachers under training from 278 in 1949 to 760 at the

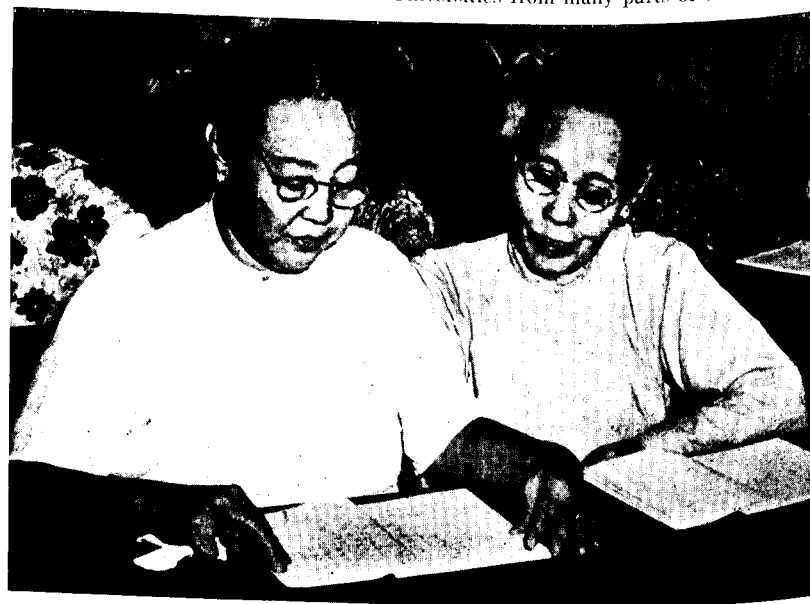


The Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Rt. Hon. James Griffiths, P.C., watches a trainee at work in the Government Junior Public Relations



Public Relations

The Chancellor of the University of Malaya, The Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, P.C., confers a degree at the University's first Convocation. Seated on the dais are the Pro-Chancellors and members of the Universities from many parts of the world



Straits Times

An adult education class in progress



Public Relations

Singapore Education Week. A view from the Municipal Building of the Schools Rally on the Padang, in which some 14,000 children took part



Public Relations

Singapore Education Week. Girls from English Schools performing country dances during the Schools Rally



Rural Health Service. Malays of Pulau Tekong await attention at the island's treatment centre



A ward in Kandang Kerbau Hospital. 13,238 babies were delivered in this hospital in 1950

end of 1950. In all 979 teachers were in training as shown in the following table:—

A. In Singapore

(i) Teachers' Training College

	Men	Women	Total
Certificate Course ..	22	16	38
Normal Classes ..	473	249	722
	495	265	760

(ii) Training of English Teachers in Private and Vernacular Schools .. 32 49 81

(iii) Training of probationers in Malay Schools .. 46 37 83

(iv) Tamil Teachers' Training Class .. 7 4 11

Total .. 580 355 935

In addition there were thirteen students (seven men and six women) studying for the post graduate Diploma in Education in the University of Malaya.

B. In the Federation of Malaya

	Men	Women	Total
Sultan Idris Training College ..	22	..	22
Malay Women's Training College ..	..	9	9
Total ..	22	9	31

One unavoidable accompaniment of the unprecedented demand for additional teachers has been the dilution of trained teachers in schools. This has not only been accepted by the more experienced teachers with equanimity, but they have given unstintingly advice and assistance to their new Colleagues in the profession.

GENERAL

The building of a new science block in one of the Government English Secondary Schools increased the facilities for science teaching. A full range of subjects, with the exception of Handwork is now available for most students during the secondary stage. The post School Certificate Classes which opened in January were devoid of pupils after the first two terms of the year but it is expected that higher entrance requirements for the universities will establish these classes on a permanent basis in the years to come. A considerable number of pupils are expected to remain in schools in order to prepare for the Cambridge Overseas Higher School Certificate examination which will be held in Singapore for the first time in 1951.

Special classes for physically handicapped children were accommodated in a Government school. Plans were in existence for the development of this type of education when the demand for primary education has been more nearly satisfied. Plans were also prepared for a residential school for physically handicapped children to be built with a grant from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and an officer left for the United Kingdom to study the latest methods in this province of education.

One of the most outstanding events of the year was the holding in May of Singapore's first Education Week, the main purpose of which was to stimulate public interest in the progress and problems of education by bringing the people, particularly parents, into closer contact with teachers and their work. Despite the threatened interest of the Malayan Communist Party the Week was an unqualified success and attracted tremendous interest and support. In addition to the many exhibitions, schools were thrown open to visitors and the Week culminated in a mass rally of 14,000 school children witnessed by well over 50,000 people.

Another interesting move with somewhat similar objects was the spontaneous birth in several schools of Parent/Teacher Associations the aims of which are to bring the two classes into close contact and promote better understanding between them.

The indoctrination of youth being one of the main objects of the Malayan Communist Party, it was not to be expected that Singapore's schools would be entirely free of the Party's attentions. Mr. Li Chi Wah, the Inspector of Chinese Schools, was severely wounded in a dastardly attempt upon his life. Several schools were raided by gangs of youths who stole Identity Cards. Two Chinese Schools were closed for a period as a result of evidence of the teaching of Communist political theories in certain classes. To ensure that schools in Singapore are not used for purposes of propaganda detrimental to interests of the Colony or of the pupils is one of the objects of the revised Registration of Schools Ordinance which became law in May. This measure gives wider powers to the Administration in the control of schools which are not directly in charge of the Department of Education and places the burden of ensuring that such schools are conducted in accordance with the public interest firmly upon the persons responsible for their management.

B—MEDICAL

1950 saw the first steps taken in the development of the Medical Plan which was approved in 1948. The first stage of the extension to the Leper Settlement, now re-named Trafalgar Home, in the form of 28 cabins with accommodation for 112 patients was completed. Work was also commenced on the new Base Medical Store and two of the main buildings were approaching completion at the close of the year. The services of the Consulting Architect who visited the Colony in 1949 could not be made available in 1950 and the hospital expansion plans were delayed in consequence. The provision of sites for the various schemes under the Medical Plan was reviewed fully in the light of present day civil defence conditions. These have necessitated a change of view, in particular regarding the extension of the present General Hospital, and the original proposal for a second hospital, has now been accepted. Draft plans were prepared for hostel accommodation for nurses and building was expected to begin early in 1951. Plans for staff accommodation of all kinds must be a priority if recruitment schemes are to be fully initiated.

The staffing position continued to be serious and the need for highly experienced officers both for the proper functioning of the hospital services and for teaching purposes did not diminish. Without such staff the training both of students for qualification and graduates for specialist duties must necessarily be restricted. The filling of all vacancies by recently qualified personnel can only satisfy requirements to a limited extent, and for some years at least it will be necessary to obtain on a short-term basis the services of officers with the necessary training to fill some of the higher appointments. In this connection, arrangements were made with the National Health Service of the United Kingdom for secondment on short-term agreements to fill existing vacancies. It remains to be seen how many will accept appointments under the scheme.

The scheme for a Unified Health Service for all medical personnel could not be completed, but prolonged discussions between Select Committees of the Singapore and Federal Legislative Councils clarified the issues to be dealt with.

Nursing recruitment was still very unsatisfactory. There was very considerable competition for educated girls, and the rapid expansion of the Education Service with the continuing demands of commerce

seriously increased the competition in this connection. During the year an attempt to relieve the existing shortage was made by recruiting sisters on a supernumerary, temporary basis. The Order of the Franciscan Sisters of the Divine Motherhood took over all the nursing in the Mandalay Road Women's Tuberculosis Hospital and a certain number of girls from the convents were recruited as probationer nurses for this purpose. An Assistant Nurses scheme was approved and it is hoped to recruit in the coming year some of these less qualified pupils for work at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. Legislation to establish a Nursing Council and a proper Nursing Register was completed and the appointment of a Nursing Board was awaiting final approval. A move for reciprocity with the United Kingdom was going forward and was expected to be settled in the near future.

Voluntary organisations and advisory committees continued to give invaluable assistance throughout the year. The latter include a Nutrition Council, a Venereal Disease Committee and a Blood Transfusion Committee. The Public Health Conferences which have become such a feature of Singapore's health control were continued, as were the activities of the Ladies' Diversional Therapy Unit, the Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association, the Leper Welfare Committee, the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade and the Singapore Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

The Almoner's division and the tuberculosis domiciliary relief scheme continued to expand, the latter under the auspices of a treatment advisory committee convened by the Department of Social Welfare. The importance of these services to the future health of the Colony cannot be overestimated. Their activities are particularly important in view of the continuing acute shortage of staff.

In spite of the lack of accommodation and staff which tended to make 1950 a really difficult year, Singapore continued to enjoy one of the most satisfactory health pictures in its history. That such a high level of medical and health work was maintained in the face of these difficulties with another record number of in-patients and out-patients is a matter for congratulation. The following is a brief record of the main divisions concerned:—

RURAL MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

In consultation with the Health Department, the Government Architect prepared type plans for new Infant Welfare Centres and

quarters for the Centre staff in preparation for building operations in 1951. When completed these Centres should serve all necessary purposes for many years to come and any expansion necessary in the future can be met by the building of more Centres. A new building most kindly presented to Government by the people of Bukit Panjang was opened during the year. There are now 11 main Centres in the rural areas with a resident staff (nurse and midwife) and 3 smaller Centres with a resident midwife only. Clinics were held at 25 places where there is no resident staff, thus making a total of 39 places where clinics were held. The acquisition of a new 55 feet launch, the *Tungku Hussein*, for work amongst the islands and coastal areas almost inaccessible by land will enable an extension of the service to the west coast and plans were prepared to start operations in 1951. Two sub-centres and 8 clinics are situated on the small islands off Singapore. Attendances totalled 182,123 and homes visited numbered 75,935 as compared with 168,063 and 90,949 in 1949. Confinements numbered 8,295 compared with 7,849 in 1949, out of a total 12,909 rural births reported apart from 279 sent to Kandang Kerbau Maternity Hospital. If confinements dealt with continue to rise then homes visited must decrease in number until the staff increases. Under the Medical Plan it is proposed to steadily enlarge the rural health personnel year by year to overcome this difficulty. 21,793 lb. of powdered milk were distributed during the year under the special scheme which is incorporated with the clinics for the purpose.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

The School Service was the division which suffered most from the general staffing difficulty in that it had to be called on to provide for deficiencies elsewhere. In consequence the routine work done in this connection showed a serious reduction over the last twelve months. This was most unfortunate in view of the increasing tempo of educational progress and must be checked. Routine examinations in schools (both Government and Government-aided) were limited to 20 per cent of the total number of children involved. Reasonably good health was demonstrated in 75 per cent of the girls and 86 per cent of the boys seen. Vision was good and skin conditions showed an improvement over previous years. Routine worm treatment continued to be carried out by school health nurses and by staff of travelling and outdoor dispensaries.

Mass radiography of children and teachers continued, considerable help being received from the Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association. All class contacts were investigated and the amount of work carried out in this field was more than that of the previous year. Of the 5,819 children X-rayed 0.84 per cent showed active foci as compared with 1.6 per cent in 1949.

Year	Attendance at clinics	Medically examined in schools	X-rayed	Tuberculin tested	Domiciliary visits
1950	23,767	17,504	5,082	3,740	1,271
1949	22,085	25,875	3,174	4,044	2,053

The tuberculosis domiciliary feeding scheme continued throughout the year. Each child received a complete examination every three weeks. 42 per cent of those fed have shown an increase in weight and 76 per cent have improved radiologically. The 58 per cent who did not gain weight are probably of most interest. Although home visits revealed no case of the selling of the extra food provided, a failure to gain weight seems to have some relation to the number of children in the family. 550 inspections of schools with regard to general sanitation and fitness were made during the year and great attention was paid to school tuck shops and other methods of feeding.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

The expansion of this service continued, the basis of selection of cases, 2,000 to each dental officer, following the lines of 1949. The service dealt with 68 per cent of the children in selected schools, a total of 3,552 children. At the close of the year 50 per cent of all treated children could be termed dentally fit, although in 15 per cent of untreated cases permission for treatment was not granted. The small amount of work remaining to be done in 1950 from the initial task carried out in 1949 was encouraging, but it was estimated that many dental officers would be required to deal with the neglect of previous years and to cover all existing school children adequately. Only two dental officers operated during the year but a third will be employed in 1951. It is proposed to add one dental officer and the assistant staff

required each year until a reasonable average of work has been reached. This service was only really initiated in 1949 so a lot of leeway has to be made up.

PORT HEALTH

The volume of air traffic passing through Singapore is steadily increasing. In April the use of Tengah airfield by civil aircraft was discontinued and all civilian air traffic passed through Kallang Airport. Shortly after these arrangements came into operation a 24 hour service was introduced and the medical staff of the airport had to be increased to two full time medical officers to cope with it. The number of ship inspections at the quarantine anchorage exceeded those of 1949, although the number of passengers was relatively less, due mainly to unsettled conditions in China, a stricter enforcement of the visa regulations and the limitation of passenger licences to certain ships. There was one case of small-pox, with a second following on isolation, but prompt action prevented a spread of this disease. Nevertheless, health control of small craft was becoming increasingly difficult in view of the shortage of staff and the absence of a proper quarantine anchorage for vessels of this nature. The declaration of Djakarta as a plague-infected port in August 1950 resulted in strict enforcement of all preventive measures. In all 136,622 passengers were inspected during 1950 as compared with 145,036 in 1949, the number of passengers quarantined in 1950 being 8,658 as compared with 22,038 in 1949.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No case of small-pox, cholera or plague occurred in Singapore during the year. There was freedom from poliomyelitis until May when a few cases occurred, the numbers rising slowly in September and October, with a sharp rise to 40 in November. The incidence began to decline in December, 25 cases being recorded for that month. The rural area was affected to a lesser degree than the urban area and the peak of cases was delayed until December. This increase tended to affect children rather than adults and differed from the epidemics of previous post-war years in that it occurred during the latter months of the year—November and December and not in April and May. In the rural area there were 49 cases of diphtheria, a morbidity rate of under 2 per 1,000 of the population. Although immunisation is offered at the larger infant welfare centres, only 3,968 children were

presented for the first inoculation and only 2,799 completed the course of two injections. The comparative low incidence of this disease may explain the lack of interest in immunisation on the part of the parents. There were 21 rural cases of typhoid fever and 71 cases of chicken pox; 81 cases of leprosy were reported from the country districts, this increased figure being influenced possibly by the recent advertisement of a more speedy cure.

RURAL ANTI-MALARIAL SCHEME

Oiling and maintenance of permanent works was continued at a high level during the year and the malaria position in 1950 gives some satisfaction to the Health Department. An increase in the amount of oil used per area early in the year appears to have resulted in a considerable improvement. There were no cases reported from controlled areas during the year. Woodcutters who worked in Johore and returned to Singapore with malaria, together with military cases, accounted for twenty imported cases. All houses on the outlying islands were barrier sprayed once every three months. Numerous complaints of nuisance mosquitoes were dealt with, the ubiquitous tin being the cause in most cases.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES, HOUSING AND SANITATION

Progress in the five-year plan for the extension of water mains to all parts of Singapore mainland was disappointing although many smaller extensions of pipe supplies have been made from existing mains, both for stand pipes and pipe connections to housing estates.

New building by-laws were completed and passed by the Rural Board in 1950 but had not yet become law. During the year the Board outlined powers to control the type of building throughout the rural area in order to control the spread of industry and protect amenities in residential areas. The rapid development of the rubber industry made this measure particularly imperative. It also enabled control to be exercised over the attempt to line every main road on the island with inferior shop houses. The housing problem continued to be the greatest public health question to be solved in Singapore and many other matters, such as the incidence of tuberculosis, have a close relation to its solution.

The liberal use of D.D.T. powder on refuse dumps controlled fly breeding on these sites but this can only be a temporary solution. Suggestions have been made for the formation of a Rural Board Cleansing Department to deal with the rapidly growing scavenging problem. Tipping in general is not a satisfactory method of rural refuse disposal and more and more reliance is being placed on incineration. Departmental removal of night-soil from villages progressed satisfactorily. The Board accepted the principle that the larger villages should have a water carriage sewage system and investigations in this connection have been commenced. Quite apart from the desirability of such schemes from the Public Health point of view, water carriage sewage disposal will eventually become a necessity as the number of persons who will empty night-soil buckets is ever decreasing.

RURAL TRAVELLING DISPENSARIES

The three travelling dispensaries dealt with 14,955 new cases with 18,501 repetitions of treatment and 6,314 school children, a grand total of 39,770 treatments given in the year. Two new smaller travelling dispensaries were obtained and one ancient vehicle went out of service. 1951 will start with four dispensaries, one of which will be used entirely for the treatment of school children in outlying areas, thus making the other three vehicles available for more halting places in the rural area. Also a new motor launch was brought into service in November and a floating dispensary will be available in 1951 for a weekly service to all the islands with more medical aid to isolated coastal areas difficult of access by land. Such transitory aid may not be the ideal but it is much better than nothing in areas of scattered population.

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis continued to be the disease of major importance and concern to the public. It is a problem to which the Medical and Health Authorities have given more and more attention in the post-war period. The total number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis recorded for the Colony of Singapore for 1950 was 1,211, giving a death rate of 119.3 per 100,000 compared with 1,290 and a death rate of 131.5 per 100,000 for 1949. The marked decrease in the mortality from this cause over the post-war years is of some significance. Taking the mortality index for the period 1939/1941 as 100, the

indices over the past five years are as follows: 93 for 1946, 70 for 1947, 66 for 1948, 57 for 1949 and 52 for 1950. Mass radiography at Tan Tock Seng Hospital was used in surveys of various sections of the public and useful information obtained. One example is that of a group of 2,203 Government servants from nine different Government departments examined. This revealed that 1.02 per cent were suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis. Tan Tock Seng Hospital remained the principal centre for the hospitalisation and outdoor clinic treatment of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. The bed provision for such cases remained at some 400. During 1950 the number of cases admitted there was 1,133 and the total number of cases treated as in-patients was 1,532 with 148 deaths. The General Hospital also continued to deal with a certain number of such cases, usually from an emergency angle or as a discovery in the course of investigation for other illness. During 1950, 592 such cases were treated, with 101 deaths. In addition, 434 cases of tuberculosis of other systems were treated, with 197 deaths. The Orthopaedic Hospital of 70 beds for children continued to treat a number of cases of bone and joint tuberculosis. The out-patient tuberculosis clinic at Tan Tock Seng Hospital performed a great deal of work in dealing with ambulatory treatment and supervision. The presence there of a full-time qualified almoner enabled domiciliary relief to be more efficiently and widely applied than previously.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The campaign against venereal disease initiated in 1945 was continued by the use of a special seventy bed hospital with male and female clinics attached, and a separate out-patient clinic in the dock area. The evening clinics for men established during 1949 continued, and a Social Hygiene travelling dispensary came into action in the latter part of 1950. This was integrated with the antenatal clinics of the Rural Health Service. The van is fully equipped with the necessary materials required for examination, diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from venereal disease. Co-operation was established with the Services' Laboratory for the carrying out of Wassermann and Colloidal Gold tests on specimens of cerebro-spinal fluid.

The increase in the number of out-patient cases dealt with by the staff rose from 72,913 in 1948 to 96,258 in 1949 and to 105,592 in

1950—an all time record—and is some criterion of the success of the methods employed. Of these, 25,838 were females and 79,754 were males. New cases numbered 15,249 (3,884 women) as compared with 12,986 (3,047 women) in 1948. In-patients totalled 2,555, a considerable increase on any previous year. The Venereal Disease Advisory Committee formed during 1949 and consisting of representatives from the Services, the Police, the Civil Medical Department and the Social Welfare Department, continued to study the methods in use and to co-ordinate the efforts of those concerned in dealing with this disease. All modern methods of treatment are in use.

LEPROSY

The number of new cases reporting for treatment continued to increase and since the settlement, now known as Trafalgar Home, was never intended at the time of its building to be more than a transit camp there was very considerable pressure on the accommodation available. However, during the year the Medical Plan came into operation and 28 two-bedroomed huts were built, giving accommodation for 112 patients. This accommodation was very popular and the provision will be extended during the coming year. A total of 536 lepers are now under care in Singapore. 355 patients continued to be dealt with in the Federation owing to shortage of accommodation. Treatment with sulphone in oil by injection is now the method of choice. Sulphetrone in water has latterly been given by injection and this is proving effective.

HOSPITALISATION

The ten year Medical Plan envisages a doubling of the bed strength of the various hospitals of the Colony with an additional sanatorium to bring the tuberculosis beds to 1,100, and a mental defective home to deal with a problem which so far has never been tackled. Little change in the total number of beds occurred during the year, with the exception of the leper home. The present bed strength is as follows:—General Hospital—650, maternity and women's diseases institution—240, tuberculosis and chronic hospital—500, venereal disease hospital—70, mental hospital—1,600 (an increase of 200 on the previous year), orthopaedic institution—70, leper home—540, infectious diseases hospital—250 and prisons division—140. Excluding mental

disease, the present bed strength approximates to that before the war, but here the comparison ceases as the hospital out-patient departments alone dealt with between four and five times the pre-war number of attendances. During 1950 these rose to 423,377 as compared with 87,447 in 1938 and 380,599 in 1949. The turnover in all the institutions was well in excess of any pre-war returns, the General Hospital and Kandang Kerbau Hospital listing 35,492 in-patients as compared with 30,976 in 1949 and 25,913 in 1938. Well over 50 per cent of all deliveries in the Colony are now dealt with in hospital and in the Municipal and rural Government clinics. The Maternity Hospital dealt with 13,238 deliveries as compared with 10,928 in 1949 and 5,551 in 1938. All the 1950 figures are records in fact in spite of the shortage of accommodation and the staffing difficulties encountered.

The new eye centre at the General Hospital, now in use, is the most up-to-date in this part of the world.

Unfortunately the number of cases dealt with in the Mental Hospital continued its steady increase although this has not yet reached the pre-war figure.

The Surgical Physiotherapy section dealt with 1,458 cases as against 958 in 1949, while the almoner's division attempted to cover all the main hospitals of the city although only two almoners are available so far. One local pupil almoner was taken on for training during the year. Although these are still necessarily newly developing organisations, a steady increase in the number of post-polio cases needing attention alone has stressed their outstanding importance in any modern hospital organisation.

The Radiological divisions reached the total of 52,353 cases as compared with 34,069 in 1949 and 6,000 in 1938.

The Blood Transfusion organisation increased its donor service from 2,946 in 1949 to 3,721 in 1950 as compared with 996 in 1947. The Armed Services again gave considerable support and as mobile units were in use this assisted in bringing in donors from the Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm.

The Ladies Voluntary Diversional Therapy Unit was a continued and a considerable success. It supplies an essential feature of the hospital services.

NUTRITION

The Singapore Nutrition Council held frequent meetings for discussions relating to the health of the population. A change was recommended in the child feeding programme whereby the meal previously given by the Social Welfare Department service was replaced by a milk drink and a special bun—both these foods being reinforced by the vitamins and minerals which are found to be deficient in the dietaries of the poorer groups. The Council supported this new programme in order that a greater number of children could be fed at the same cost. The enrichment of specific foods as a means of improving traditional local dietaries was fully considered and finally the Council recommended a large scale enrichment of rice and the introduction of legislation to protect the public in regard to claims for enrichment of bread and flour. The use of sweetened condensed milk for infant feeding received the most careful study. It was agreed that this is a bad infant food and that its use as such should be discouraged.

The Nutrition Unit of the Social Medicine and Public Health Division of the University assisted in a survey of a group of Chinese farmers and the findings of this enquiry indicated that this section of the population exists on a diet deficient in several essential nutrients. The Unit continued to work with the staff of the General Hospital in the investigation of the households of patients who had been admitted to hospital suffering from malnutrition. After the collection of information of the dietary habits, instruction in the selection of foods was given and in cases of economic necessity the families were recommended to the Department of Social Welfare. At the request of the Department of Social Welfare, an enquiry was conducted into the health of children attending a Tamil School. The investigation showed that supplementary feeding was desirable, and two months after the commencement of school meals a marked improvement in health was recorded. The Unit assisted also in the experiments conducted in the University of Malaya to show the losses of vitamin B1 during the large scale preparation of rice to which premix had been added. The most conservative method of washing and cooking the rice was determined. As wheat has a higher nutritive value than rice the increased consumption of wheat would effect a natural improvement in the nutritional state: the Unit conducted palatability trials

on a processed wheat product, 'Rycena', to determine whether this would be a suitable substitute for rice in the diet. Unless the texture of such material can be improved it is unlikely that this foodstuff will be readily acceptable to the population of Singapore.

STAFF WELFARE

An important and useful aspect of the modern life of the hospitals of Singapore is the lively interest taken by the various divisions of the staff in the general efficiency of the hospitals and in the general well being of all those whose work lies in these institutions.

The Singapore Medical Services Union, representing hospital assistants, nurses, laboratory assistants and sanitary inspectors, continued its active interest on behalf of its members. During the year it took part in two further meetings of the Medical Department's Interim Joint Council and in various discussions with the Medical Directorate.

It has been realised that the nurses who comprise such a large part of the staff of the hospitals have a great many problems peculiar to them in their life and work, and two special meetings were held between representatives of each of the various grades of nurses and the Principal Matron, matrons and sisters. These meetings of the Nurses Representative Council are of the highest value since in an entirely female atmosphere the nurses can and do put forward a great many questions and problems without the shyness and reticence that tend to restrain them in more formal mixed meetings.

The Singapore Medical Labour Union, representing the large body of hospital servants, kept in intimate touch with the hospital administration concerned over matters affecting their members.

The Senior Staff Committee of the General Hospital, comprising the heads of the units and departments of the various hospitals, held meetings at regular intervals and discussed many important matters concerned with efficient functioning. Contact was kept with the Medical Directorate in all these matters.

Great and growing interest is shown by the nursing staff, both male and female, in the post-war opportunities now afforded for certain selected members of the staff to go overseas for special training. This is a question which is receiving the special attention of Government.

During the year the various athletic activities of the various

hospital services continued. In September the Third Annual Sports Meeting was held at Jalan Besar Stadium and was an unqualified success.

The Health Department Labourers' Co-operative Society with a membership of 393, continued to function. The increasing age of members of this staff resulted in a number of withdrawals owing to retirement. It is a pity that whilst free medical attention is offered, a labourer still withdraws \$100 from his co-operative society to meet expenses in connection with confinement or sickness in his family. The credit balance as at 31st December, 1950 was as follows:—

		\$	c.
Post Office Savings Bank	..	..	6,987 64
Chartered Bank	..	..	11,203 07
Cash in transit	..	..	1,588 85
Total Investments	..	..	30,706 25

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

As the Medical School is now a part of the University of Malaya, a report on its activities as such is omitted from this brief review. The university issues its own report which includes that of the Medical Faculty. Suffice it to say here that the financial aid system to students was continued. Government awarded six bursaries to new students, five to medical and one to a dental student.

The following shows the number of students in the different years:—

			Medical	Dental
First year	..	..	65	31
Second year	..	..	53	20
Third year	..	..	66	16
Fourth year	..	..	50	7
Fifth year	..	..	34	8
Sixth year	..	..	28	—
Total	..	..	296	82

Eighty-five new students were admitted to the Medical Faculty at the beginning of the academic year of 1950 (fifty medical, twenty dental and fifteen pharmacy). The admission of a substantially larger number yearly than in the pre-war days has raised many difficult problems concerned with hostel accommodation, teaching staff and hospital facilities. Final professional examinations were held in June and December, seventeen students qualifying in medicine and eight in dental surgery.

C—PLANNING AND HOUSING

PLANNING

In previous Reports reference has been made to the need for Town and Country Planning in Singapore but little has been said of what has already been accomplished in the planning field. The Singapore Improvement Ordinance (Chapter 134) gives a measure of power to the Singapore Improvement Trust and certain sections of the Municipal Ordinance (Chapter 133) contain elementary provisions for planning control. The only physical plan which exists is the General Improvement Plan which was provided for by the former Ordinance and which has been built up over the past 23 years. The Plan is merely a record of the layouts which have been approved since the Improvement Trust was formed in 1927; it does not control development but merely the laying out of land, and in many respects is a most unreal picture as many of the approved layouts are only lines on paper and bear no resemblance to the actual development which has taken place, in many cases without authority.

During and immediately after the war years sporadic development of so called temporary dwellings was allowed to take place without reference to the Plan and the Trust has been faced with a *fait accompli* with which it is impossible to deal in a short time and which will involve heavy expenditure to put right. Since 1946 strict control of land subdivision has been carried out and some idea of the extent of this work can be gained from the fact that 1,498 private layouts have been dealt with in the past 4 years. Of these 862 have been approved by the Board of Trustees and recorded on the Plan. Legislation was passed during the year to ensure that all approved private layouts are now properly surveyed and laid out on the ground.

The Improvement Ordinance also imposes on the Trust the task of initiating and executing Improvement Schemes. Due largely to lack of staff, the Trust has concentrated since the war principally on the completion of Schemes which had not been finished before 1942. This task has now been fulfilled and the four areas—Sago Street/Smith Street, Kampong Silat, Old Race Course and Balestier Road have been built up. Three new Schemes, Telok Ayer Reclamation, Covent Garden Improvement and Havelock Road Improvement were initiated in 1950 and action will proceed in 1951.

All the Schemes are as fine if not finer than anything to be seen in the Far East, but Singapore still lags far behind most western countries as regards its planning powers. Recognition of the need for improvement was acknowledged by the Legislative Council when it passed the resolution regarding planning and housing to which reference was made in last year's Report. In 1950 the first step was taken to meet the long-term object of that resolution by the appointment of a Planning Adviser and to fill this appointment Singapore was extremely fortunate in securing the services of Sir George Pepler, C.B., P.P.T.I., F.R.I.C.S., Hon. A.R.I.B.A., one of the world's most eminent planners. Sir George was Chief Planning Adviser to His Majesty's Government for nearly 25 years and is now President of the International Federation of Housing and Town Planning. Sir George and Lady Pepler (who is a well known Housing Expert) arrived in Singapore on 12th December, 1950, and spent a very busy month surveying the situation in Singapore and acquainting themselves with local people and conditions.

Pending Sir George's advice on the legislation and staff required to execute the Diagnostic Survey and the Master Plan, action was withheld on the Development Bill mentioned in last year's Report, which was throughout 1950 under consideration by a Select Committee of the Legislative Council.

HOUSING

1950 saw a general increase in the rate of housing development in Singapore, both by official bodies and by private enterprise. Indeed Singapore experienced a building boom and the resources of the building industry in the Colony were stretched to their utmost. As a result, and due also to the scarcity of materials and skilled labour, the cost of building increased during the year by approximately 20 per cent, and prices were still on the upgrade at the end of the year. It is now true to say that Singapore has at last become really housing conscious. Not only are all sections of the population beginning to understand the magnitude of the housing problem, but the public is demanding better standards of accommodation, and this demand will continue to increase with the rapid advance in education of the younger sections of the community.

The public generally, however, still does not appreciate the difficulties involved in solving the housing problem. The main difficulty is

not in deciding how the problem should be tackled, or even in the preparation of plans and the letting of housing contracts. The greatest practical difficulties lie in the aspects of land, building materials, building labour and finance; these are examined in greater detail below. At the present time the resources of Singapore are inadequate for the quick solution of a problem which has been growing steadily and rapidly during the past thirty years.

Land

Many of the areas of land where permanent development should be taking place are covered by insanitary squatter kampongs and the difficulties involved in clearing these kampongs are very considerable. In many cases no solution can be found short of the complete clearance and redevelopment of these areas, and in all cases this involves the offer of alternative accommodation coupled with complicated and expensive legal action. Even when the land is cleared, it may require considerable engineering works such as cutting and filling, and it always requires the provision of access roads, sewers and other services before it is ready for building. The cost of land in the Colony has increased rapidly since the liberation, and in many cases the prices asked have no relation to the true value of the land for building purposes. Until a solution of this vital problem is reached, the rapid provision of satisfactory housing accommodation will necessarily be retarded, and much land which is suitable for good housing development will either lie fallow, or continue to be used by squatters, resulting in further aggravation of the slum problem. The Singapore Improvement Trust has been fortunate in possessing considerable areas of land which it has developed since the War. Much of this land is suitable for housing development and such areas are now being developed. But most of the land now left to the Trust is covered with squatter development, and the present occupiers of this land must be rehoused as a first priority before the problem of overcrowding in the city areas can be adequately tackled. All the land now left to the Trust is situated in one area, and it is indeed questionable as to whether all this land could, or should be used for housing development. The result is that housing development is taking place in a lopsided fashion with no relation to the needs of other areas and without relation to an over-all plan for the Island.

Building Materials

A serious situation has now arisen with regard to the supply of basic materials for building, particularly timber and steel and, to a certain extent, cement and bricks, and unless the present world situation improves, these materials are likely to be in very short supply for a considerable time.

Labour

During the year the demand for building labour was so great that there were many delays in contracts, and any large increase in the housing programme would inevitably result in a scramble for labour with consequent higher rates of pay and increased building costs. Consideration is being given to the question of the training of skilled tradesmen, including a proposal for a School of Building in Singapore which will encourage training in the various building crafts and produce skilled craftsmen to cope with the large amount of building work, particularly housing, which has to be carried out.

Finance

All Trust housing schemes are now carried out with the aid of loans from Government, repayable in 60 years at 3 per cent interest. Loans have so far been approved by Legislative Council amounting to \$22.5 million as follows:—

1948	..	.. \$ 5 Million
1949	..	.. \$ 5 Million
1950	..	.. \$12.5 Million

No grant or subsidy has been made for housing since the liberation and the money which has been spent can be regarded as pure investment. In these circumstances, in order that the Trust may not show a loss, rentals have to be calculated so that a 3 per cent net return is obtained from all housing schemes in order that the loans may be repaid. So far the Trust has succeeded in balancing its housing budget without charging excessive rents, and in fact during 1950, standard post-war rentals were reduced by 15 per cent. It is however impossible for the Trust to house the lower-paid sections of the community and still pay a 3 per cent return, and unless some form of subsidy or rent assistance is introduced those families which earn less than \$100 a month cannot be housed.

Trust Housing Progress

The majority of the low cost housing in Singapore was again in 1950, as in previous years, carried out by the Singapore Improvement Trust. The Trust's building programme for 1950 amounted to approximately \$11½ million and an additional \$4 million remained to be carried out from the 1949 programme delayed through reasons outside the Trust's control. By the end of 1950 a considerable amount of this backlog had been overtaken: during the year 855 flats, 236 artisans quarters and 43 shops were completed, with a further 1,334 flats, 152 artisans quarters and 110 shops under construction at the 31st of December, 1950. The total value of housing work carried out by the Trust during the year amounted to just over \$8 million as compared with approximately \$4½ million in 1948 and \$4 million in 1949, and during the last quarter of 1950 an average expenditure of over \$1 million per month was attained. This rate of expenditure is expected to be at least maintained and probably considerably exceeded throughout 1951. The value of work under construction at 31st December, 1950 was approximately \$12¾ million, and contracts for the whole of the 1950 programme were let during the year with the exception of one site which had not been cleared of existing buildings.

Types of Dwellings

A wide variety of flats were built, ranging from one to four bedrooms, with and without balconies, and with varying standards of finishings. In all cases, however, the policy was followed of using the best possible materials within the standard set in order to keep down maintenance costs to a minimum. All multi-storey flats now have refuse chutes, showers, good iron-mongery and paintwork and in the better class flats electric power points and gas are laid on. All flats are laid out in generous open spaces, which are turfed and planted with trees and maintained in first class order by the Trust's maintenance staff. The hollow block flats evolved by the Trust in 1949 have still proved the cheapest type and can be erected very speedily. The Trust has continued to build artisans quarters outside the central areas on the same plans as in previous years. These quarters are the cheapest permanent (or semi permanent) structures that can be erected and have a lower maintenance cost than any 'temporary' structure. The actual frame including walls, doors, windows, roof

and cooking space, costs approximately \$1,500 for a floor area of 500 square feet, plus an enclosed unroofed yard of 162 square feet including erection. These quarters are built in terraces of 4, 6 or 8, laid out around turfed open spaces, planted with trees, and have proved cool and healthy. A large number of the tenants of these houses have come from congested cubicles in the centre of the town or from squalid and often insanitary squatters' huts, and the improvement in health, particularly of the children, after quite a short period on one of the Trusts' artisans estates, is most noticeable. In 1951 a larger type of artisan quarter will probably be built having two bedrooms. In each successive contract slight improvements have been made in materials, fittings and finishings and all quarters constructed in 1950 had modern sanitation, individual water supply and electricity.

Each estate of artisans quarters is provided with its own self-contained shopping centre of prefabricated shops of a similar standard and construction to the artisans quarters. Shops have also been provided on the ground floor of a number of blocks of flats in positions suitable for commerce.

Redevelopment Schemes

During 1950 the Trust commenced work on the first major redevelopment scheme on Crown land cleared on the falling in of 99 year Crown leases. This is in the Upper Hokkien Street area and is the first part of a comprehensive clearance and redevelopment scheme designed to open up the most overcrowded area in Singapore, and to provide a dual carriageway through road to the city centre. The land is to be developed with nine storey shops and flats giving the highest reasonable density, with good open space, light and air around the buildings. These flats will have lifts and will be the highest buildings that the Trust has so far constructed. They are expected to be completed towards the end of 1951. A number of other areas of Crown land are also being developed; in all cases the Trust is purchasing the land from the Crown at an agreed figure.

Municipal and Government Housing

The Municipal Commissioners carried out a programme of staff housing and 16 houses for Senior Officers and 67 houses and flats for Junior Officers were erected. The Public Works Department concentrated mainly on subordinate staff housing. In the Municipal Area 70 quarters were built, and in the Rural Area 163 quarters.

Private Housing

The number of houses completed during the year by private enterprise does not fully reflect the building activity which has been going on, as many houses are still in course of erection. The figures for completion are:—

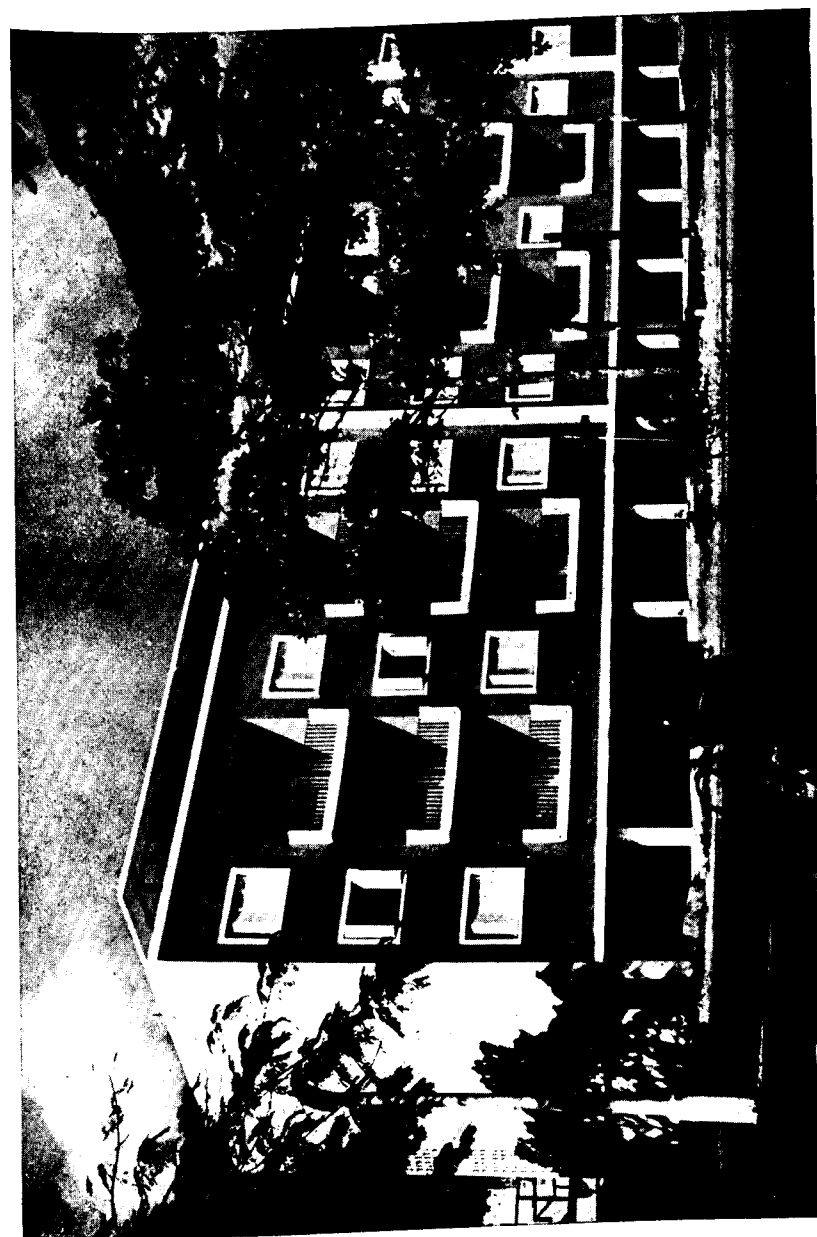
Municipal Area; Detached Houses, Semi-detached Houses and Bungalows	225
Terrace, Shop and Barrack Houses	227
Tenement Houses and Flats	161
Total	613

In the Rural Board Area great activity took place, not only in the erection of temporary houses but also permanent dwellings. 429 attap houses were completed in 1950 and also 105 bungalows, 75 shophouses and 15 labourers' quarters. To assist the poor man in erecting a house, type plans were prepared for the cheaper kinds of kampong houses and are now obtainable from the Rural Board at \$1 per copy.

U.N.O. Housing Mission

In the latter part of December 1950 a Tropical Housing Mission organised by the United Nations visited Singapore and spent two periods of five days each in studying the housing and planning problems of the Island. This Mission consisted of four housing experts with considerable experience in tropical housing throughout various parts of the world. It was headed by Mr. Jacob Crane of the Federal Housing Bureau in Washington. In addition to studying the housing needs of the Colony and the efforts which have been made to fulfil these needs, the Mission had meetings and discussions with a number of Government and Municipal officers, Municipal Commissioners and private individuals interested and connected with the solution of the housing problem.

It is of interest to record that the Mission was impressed with the housing organisation which exists in the Singapore Improvement Trust and with the potential capacity of the Trust to carry out a large scale long term housing programme, to meet the housing needs of the Colony. A report will be sent by the Mission to the Government as well as to the United Nations Organisation and it is hoped that as a result of their visit and discussions, assistance may be forthcoming in the formation of a Building Research Station in Singapore.

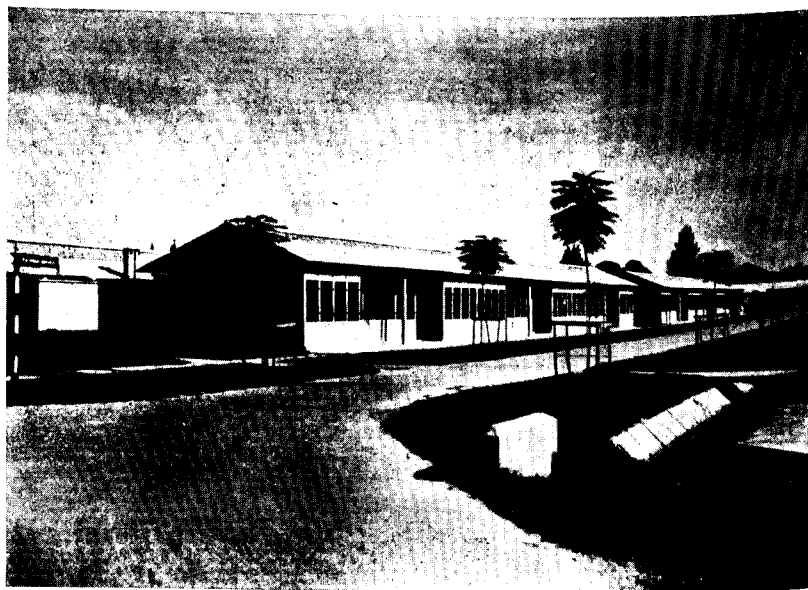


Singapore Improvement Trust
Singapore Improvement Trust shops and flats at Tiong Bahru Road, erected in 1950. The approximate cost of a two bedroom flat was \$6,500 and the monthly rental is \$49. Respective figures for a three bedroom flat are \$7,700 and \$62



Public Relations

A new Government English Primary School. Eighteen such schools were opened in 1950



Public Relations

Artizans' Quarters at Towner Road erected by the Singapore Improvement Trust in 1950. The approximate cost per quarter was \$3,650; the rent is \$20 per month



Public Relations

The terminal building and control tower, Kallang Airport. The Airport staff handled a monthly average of 740 commercial aircraft movements in 1950



Daily News

Girl Guides from Singapore and the Federation of Malaya arrive in Australia to take part in a Guides Rally

D—SOCIAL WELFARE

With the Social Welfare Five Year Plan, which was published in 1949, as a basis on which to work the Department of Social Welfare continued to meet all the demands made upon it by the public. The Department's powers were considerably strengthened by the bringing into force in 1950 of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance which was passed in 1949.

In January 1950 it was decided that the Youth Welfare Section of the Department should be expanded and the scope of its work enlarged, and that it should be renamed the Community Development Section. This new Section is responsible for the administration of the four children's institutions and of the sixteen Children's Social Centres, in addition to the work of liaison with and promotion of Boys' Clubs and Youth Organisations. It is also responsible for the development and detailed organisation for that part of the Social Welfare Five Year Plan concerned with Youth.

The work done in the institutions is unspectacular, but a distinct improvement in the outlook and discipline of girls admitted to the Pasir Panjang Girls' Home and of boys admitted to the Bukit Timah Home was noted during the year. Further progress was made through the Social Centres, Boys' Clubs and Hostels in directing the energies of Singapore's Youth into the right channels and great assistance was received from voluntary organisations and in particular the Singapore Youth Council.

The Social Welfare Council met every month and continued to prove its value in keeping the Department aware of the trends of public thought, and many invaluable suggestions and criticisms were put forward in the Council which assisted the Department in carrying out its functions to the best advantage.

The varied nature of the work of the Department can be seen from the detailed information below and a picture obtained of the expansion of its activities which is essential if the social welfare needs of this island with a population of more than a million are to be met.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CENTRES

With the assistance given by the voluntary workers, the Children's Centres enjoyed another year of progress in all branches of their



The General Post Office, Singapore

Public Relations



Public Relations

Applicants register at the Government Employment Exchange opened by the Department of Labour. In 1950 more than 17,100 vacancies were notified by employers and 8,100 applicants were placed in employment

activities. The average number of children attending on any one day was 1,845 made up as follows:—

Child Feeding (2 to 6 years)	.. 653
Children's Clubs (7 to 14 years)	.. 1,192
Total	.. 1,845

In addition to informal education in the three 'R's', instruction was given in basket-work, carpentry, sewing and other handwork which produced articles for the annual sale of work at one of the big departmental stores. Cinema shows were given by the Public Relations Office at sixteen of the seventeen Centres, some Centres having as many as five shows screened during the year. Christmas parties were held in all Centres. The progress in the medical examination of children was most marked, the following programme being carried out:—

- (a) Medical Inspection of all children in Centres to assess weight, height, eyes, teeth, and general physical condition was carried out by a doctor working on a voluntary basis;
- (b) Vitamin oil, Cod liver oil and Iron tablets were issued to children recommended by the doctor;
- (c) all children recommended for dental treatment were attended to and cases for examination by the Hospital doctor were dealt with;
- (d) the de-worming of all children in the Centres with the active assistance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade;
- (e) the jelly test of all children and subsequent X-Ray and B.C.G. vaccination of children recommended for either was carried out by the Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association without any charge being made.

The rice meal was discontinued from 1st September and was replaced by a snack made up of yeast biscuits, cocoa and fruit. Later in the month this snack was altered by the introduction of a two ounce vitaminised bun in place of yeast biscuits.

CHILDREN'S CRECHES

The two day nurseries, which are situated in the thickly populated areas of the town, handled an average of seventy-three children in New Market Road and forty-four in Victoria Street on any working

day. The mothers of these children who are at work, leave their children in the creches in the morning and collect them in the evening. A small charge is made for each child taken into the creches. Two meals were provided daily and all children received medical attention, the more serious cases being taken to the Hospital for examination, while undernourished ones were given cod liver and vitamin oil. A medical progress card was kept for each child.

BOYS' CLUBS

The Boys' Clubs had a very good year and one new Club sponsored by the 'Y's Men of Singapore' was opened in the Chinatown area. Total membership rose to 1,500 and Inter Boys' Club activities were increased by the introduction of contests for two new trophies for swimming and table tennis. The other competitions are for athletics, soccer and badminton. The Clubs have banded themselves into the Singapore Federation of Boys' Clubs and have plans for the propagation of the Movement and the establishment of new clubs. Another interesting development in 1950 was the handing-over of more responsibility to the boys themselves. Most Clubs are divided into 'houses' for purposes of running inter-house competitions, sports and house captains being elected by the boys themselves at a general meeting. Some clubs have very well organised Boys' Committees with their own boy Chairmen; Club programmes are discussed, arranged and carried out by these Committees, and in some Clubs membership fees are being collected by the Committees.

BUKIT TIMAH HOME

Bukit Timah Home was opened as an Approved School for boys in June 1947. The Home was intended to accommodate boys between the ages of 14 and 16 sent there by the Juvenile Court, but due to the fact that a Junior Approved School has not yet been established in Singapore it has been necessary to accommodate boys of all ages between 10 and 16 sent by the Juvenile Court.

During the year only twenty-eight boys were sent to the Home while sixty-three were discharged having completed their term. Of these, fifty-six were discharged to their own homes (eight in the Federation of Malaya) and nine were sent to the Boys' Hostels operated by the Department. Jobs were found for fifty-two of the sixty-three boys discharged.

The Home is organised on the House System with three House-masters on the staff. Training is provided in carpentry, rattan-craft, tailoring and vegetable farming, and the boys make in their workshops much of the furniture and equipment for the Home. In addition a fairly large number of articles are produced from the various workshops for sale to members of the public and special orders reached a gratifying total. Education classes are carried on under the direction of the various House-masters. Education is in English and is based on the desirability of teaching sufficient colloquial English to a boy during the time he is in the Home to be of real use to him when he leaves to take up a job outside. The main subjects covered are English, Arithmetic and General Knowledge; Drawing and Painting Classes were organised once a week by a lady voluntary worker and were quite popular.

Throughout the year the system of short parole leave of not more than 48 hours to visit their homes was in operation and only one boy failed to report back from his leave in time. The payment for work system was continued successfully. This arrangement of paying the boys for their work and persuading them to save a proportion of their earnings in the Post Office Savings Bank provides an excellent incentive to good work and behaviour, and a useful method of punishment by the deprivation of earnings when the need arises.

The 9th Company of the Singapore Battalion, Boys' Brigade, was organised in Bukit Timah Home in 1949, and was carried on successfully during 1950. This excellent organisation helps to keep the boys in touch with normal life outside the Home, and with other boys who have been brought up in more normal circumstances. The Company attended the Annual Boys' Brigade Camp during 1950 and gave a very good account of itself. The Commandant particularly remarked on the standard of their turnout and discipline.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S SECTION

The activities of the Women and Children's Section are chiefly concerned with the enforcement of the statutory provisions of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, 1949, and the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance. The need for such work has existed in Singapore for many years and is likely to do so for many more. The problems were aggravated by the period of Japanese occupation and

the exploitation of women and girls is still prevalent. The Department's counter-measures are directed into three main channels, the prevention of importation into Singapore of women and girls for subsequent use as prostitutes and *mui tsai*; raids on brothels and hotels believed to be harbouring juvenile prostitutes; and the investigation of cases of suspected *mui tsai* which come to notice either as the result of information from the public, or in connection with the registration of transferred children under the Children and Young Persons Ordinance.

Females arriving at the Immigration Depot from China, in addition to going through the normal immigration formalities, are 'screened' by officers of the Social Welfare Department in order to detect and protect women and girls who are being brought in for illegal purposes. It is necessary for a female person desiring to enter the Federation of Malaya or the Colony of Singapore to be sponsored by a resident of the territory, and such a sponsor must apply to the Immigration Authorities for an Entry Permit. Where prospective entrants are suspected to be possible victims of trafficking, the Immigration Department sends the relevant applications to the Social Welfare Department for a full investigation to be made into the circumstances and character of the sponsor concerned and immigration decisions are based on the results of such enquiries. During the year 9,810 women and girls were 'screened', of whom 535 were detained temporarily for further enquiry.

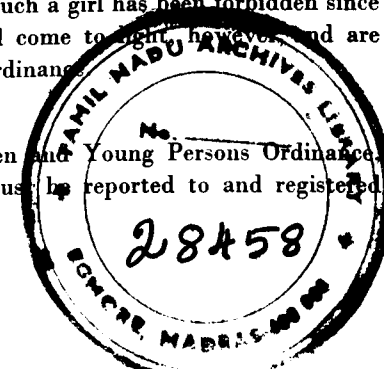
Mui Tsai

The *Mui Tsai* Ordinance was repealed by the Children and Young Persons Ordinance. A *mui tsai* was defined as a female unmarried domestic servant below the age of 18 years whose custody or guardianship has been acquired either by gift, purchase, inheritance or by way of a pledge or in settlement of a debt. Penalties for the neglect or ill-treatment of a *mui tsai* were severe, the offender being liable to both a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, and the acquisition of such a girl has been forbidden since the 1st January, 1938. Cases still come to light, however, and are dealt with under the repealing Ordinance.

Transferred Children

In accordance with the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, 1949, all 'transferred children' must be reported to and registered

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with the Department. A transferred child here means a 'female under the age of 14 years, who is living apart from her natural father or mother but does not include a girl who—

- (a) is living with a grandparent, a brother or sister by the whole or half blood, or a sister or brother of a deceased parent by the whole blood; or
- (b) is over the age of 12 and is married and is living with her husband or with a parent or grandparent of her husband; or
- (c) has been lawfully adopted in accordance with any written law of the Colony relating to adoption and is living with the adopter; or
- (d) is living with a legal guardian; or
- (e) is living with a person other than her natural father or mother in pursuance of an order of a Court of competent Jurisdiction of the Colony or of the Federation of Malaya, or in pursuance of an order made under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance or under the Women and Girls Protection Ordinance or the Women and Girls Protection Enactment of the Federated Malay States or of the corresponding Enactment of any Malay State or under the Mui Tsai Ordinance; or
- (f) is an inmate of any orphanage, hospital, home or institution maintained by Government or of any place of safety; or
- (g) is a boarder at a school registered under the Registration of Schools Ordinance of the Registration of Schools Enactment of the Federated Malay States or the corresponding Enactment of any Malay State, or is regularly attending such a school and is living with a friend or relative of her natural father or mother or her legal guardian or adopter, with the consent of the father, mother, legal guardian or adopter, as the case may be.

'The expression "transferred child" shall be deemed to apply to a female in respect of whom a bond has been executed or a committal order made under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons

Ordinance until such time as the bond or order is discharged or the female reaches the age of 18, whichever is the earlier event.'

Under the Ordinance, the Protector, which term includes Secretary for Social Welfare, Deputy Secretary for Social Welfare, and Assistant Secretaries for Social Welfare, Women and Children, is empowered to enquire into the circumstances of the transfer of any such child and to refuse to verify such transfer if the circumstances are unfavourable.

Ill-treatment

The Women and Girls Protection Ordinance empowers the Protector to enquire into cases concerning ill-treatment of girls and to enter into any place and to remove therefrom to a place of safety, pending enquiry, any girl in respect of whom it was suspected that an offence of this nature had been committed. The Children and Young Persons Ordinance confers similar powers on the Protector in respect of any child or young person who, however, may be detained only until brought before a Police Court. The Police Court may also issue a warrant to a Police Officer to search for and move any child suspected of ill-treatment or neglect, and by the same warrant to arrest any person accused of the offence in respect of that child. It is essential that cases of ill-treatment should be enquired into immediately to prevent the victim being spirited away and to obviate the possibility of any further suffering; Social Welfare Officers are therefore, prepared at any hour of the day or night to make these investigations. In one case, for instance, a report was made at 1 a.m. in the morning and the girl concerned was removed and taken to a place of safety without delay; tardiness in this instance would certainly have caused further hardship.

Visiting

The visiting at irregular intervals of the young girls and children who have come to the notice of the Department is an essential feature of the preventive and protective measures taken by the Women and Childrens Section to ensure the well-being of children concerning whose care there may be misgiving. Without this follow-up, the work previously carried out by Departmental Officers in connection with the screening of immigrants, the registration of suspects and of ill-treated or transferred children would be of little avail.

Adoption

During 1950, further progress was made with the preparation of revised legislation to regulate the adoption of children by legal means. The proposed legislation is intended to replace the existing Adoption of Children Ordinance, 1939, and to facilitate legal adoption by persons who cannot afford substantial solicitors' fees.

The Girls' Homecraft Centre

This Home provides accommodation and training for a number of different categories of girls, from birth up to 18 years of age. The Centre is organised in two sections; the Nursery Section accommodates and cares for babies of either sex up to the age of 6 years, while the Homecraft section accommodates and provides training and schooling for girls from 7 to 18 years of age. All children are admitted to the Home after investigation of their cases by the Women and Children's Section of the Department. Most cases are admitted on a warrant issued by the Protector under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance or the Women and Girls' Protection Ordinance, but the Secretary for Social Welfare has power to admit other cases not catered for by these Ordinances, at his discretion. The types of case include girls admitted at the request of their parents as being unruly or in need of care and protection, girls in moral danger, destitute children and abandoned babies. The Centre is gazetted as an Approved Home and as a Place of Detention and a Place of Safety under the Children and Young Persons Ordinance.

The Girls' Home, Pasir Panjang

This Home was opened in January 1947 to provide accommodation and rehabilitation training for juvenile prostitutes. The girls are those found in brothels in Singapore who are removed and sent to this Home on a warrant issued by the Protector under the Women and Girls' Protection Ordinance. The keynote of training is hard work and rigid obedience, allied to a sympathetic understanding between girls and staff, achieved on the basis that each girl is an individual with her own peculiar problems and worries and not merely another 'case'. Every sympathy is shown them in trying to solve their problems. The training consists of educational classes in English, Mandarin, Arithmetic, General Knowledge and Hygiene; practical training in needlework and embroidery up to a very high standard; cooking

domestic work and cake-making; gardening and poultry care. In addition the girls attend dancing and singing classes organised for them by voluntary workers; visits to places of interest in the town are arranged to give them a background of knowledge of the type of every day life that goes on around them. Classes and lectures on manners, deportment and behaviour are also organised.

The object of the training given in the two Girls' Homes is to mould them into normal and useful citizens of the Colony. To this end they are given, in addition to elementary education, training in domestic service and in needlework of all kinds. The excellence of the examples of embroidery and sewing on display at the annual 'At Homes' of the two institutions provides ample proof of the patient training of the instructresses and of the keen interest of the girls in their work. Their skill in sewing is of great assistance in placing the girls in domestic work after their release. It is considered advisable to place them in this type of work where they may join in the family life and be under some supervision rather than allow them to work as seamstresses or in other employment where they would be on their own and more likely to fall back into their old ways.

THE JUVENILE COURT

During the year 455 children and young persons appeared before the Juvenile Court. Of this number, 392 including 42 females, were found guilty. The corresponding figures for 1949 were 612, 571 and 67. The Children and Young Persons Ordinance gives the Court wider powers for dealing with juvenile offenders and provides for heavier fines on parents or guardians if it is proved that their neglect was conducive to the child's misbehaviour. The decrease in the number of cases is no indication of a decrease in juvenile delinquency, but was largely due to the fact that the total for 1949 included 193 cases of hawking without licences whereas in 1950 action against hawkers was largely suspended. The number of juvenile vagrants continued to diminish, from 96 in 1948 to 28 in 1949 and 9 in 1950. A small number of vagrants below the age of 10 years were admitted direct to the Welfare Homes. The number of cases committed to institutions totalled 139; this figure included 89 cases of absconding from institutions; 12 cases were committed to the Young Offenders' Section of the Prison for persistent absconding and unruly behaviour in the Boys' Home. Of the 392 children and young persons found guilty by the

Juvenile Court, only 65 cases, representing 16.6 per cent were placed on probation. This is a slight increase over the 1949 figure of 12.3 per cent, but proportionately, the number of cases placed on probation is still much lower than in the United Kingdom.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

An interim Public Assistance Scheme in accordance with the programme of the Five Year Social Welfare Plan was approved for introduction in 1951 to replace the existing Scheme which has been in force since 1945.

The Tuberculosis Treatment Allowance Scheme entered its second year of operation and was revised to incorporate the many rulings and decisions made as a result of experience gained during 1949. The main feature of the scheme is the provision of an adequate allowance, granted under certain conditions, to maintain the sufferer's dependants while he or she is undergoing specialised treatment given free in the Tan Tock Seng Hospital and Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association Clinic. The allowance and treatment combined to render the scheme effective, resulting in many cases in the speedy recovery of the patient.

Both schemes were administered by the Public Assistance Section which is also responsible for the investigation, assessment and review of cases, and the disbursement of assistance on behalf of the Tuberculosis Treatment Advisory Committee, the Silver Jubilee Fund Committee, the Far Eastern Relief Fund Committee and the Trustees of the Malayan War Distress Fund. It also pays, on behalf of a few commercial firms, monthly allowances to dependents of their deceased employees and contributions by the public to certain special cases, and in general looks after the welfare of such persons. The Section was expanded towards the latter part of the year by the employment of additional staff to meet the increasing number of applications for assistance.

SETTLEMENTS

Two Institutions, Nantina and Bushey Park Homes, were maintained mainly for the aged and decrepit, the average age of inmates being about sixty. They also continued, in the absence of other accommodation to shelter those who become destitute and homeless, and persons in transit, particularly repatriates. The two Institutions are run on communal lines and only a minimum of paid staff is

employed. The residents do their own cooking, washing, sewing and attend to the sanitation. A small sum of Pocket Money is issued monthly, but those who work in the kitchen for the benefit of the others, receive slightly more as remuneration for work done. The Department was successful in obtaining employment and accommodation for twenty-six of the residents who were able to work but could not be placed in employment at the time of admission.

ADVICE SERVICES

The Citizen's Advice Bureau registered 307 cases and dealt with a number of enquiries which did not merit registration as the advice given was of a trivial nature. Of the total, 87 were tenancy disputes, 21 domestic disputes and 8 squatter problems. Enquiries from other Government Departments and the Municipality of Singapore, Federation of Malaya and elsewhere were also received and answered, and the Bureau also acted as a 'clearing house' in many cases involving other sections of the Department.

The Missing Persons Bureau maintains extensive records of persons forcibly expatriated or interned during the war, and continued to deal with all enquiries. Applications for Certificates of Presumption of Death in respect of persons who disappeared during the war diminished in number. There were 73 applications and 58 Certificates were issued. Up to the end of 1950 a total of 1,357 Certificates had been issued.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Joo Chiat Library had a membership of just under 1,000 at the end of 1950. Of this number two-thirds were senior members and one-third juniors. During the year donations of books were received from interested members and 212 books were loaned by Raffles Library. Plans were in being for the establishment of a Chinese Library at Mount Erskine and a Malay Library at Jalan Eunus. During 1950 the Department placed 120 books in the Public Relations Information Room at Havelock Road and handed over 150 books to the Serangoon Library which is operated by the Serangoon District Committee.

IX

Legislation

FORTY-SEVEN Ordinances were enacted during the year 1950. One of these was the Supply Ordinance, twenty-nine were amending Ordinances, two were repealing Ordinances and fifteen were new Ordinances.

The following are the more important:—

The Brothers of St. Gabriel Ordinance, 1950, No. 5 of 1950

This Ordinance was introduced into the Legislative Council as a Private Bill. It provides for the incorporation of the Titular Superior of the Congregation of the Brothers of Christian Instruction of St. Gabriel in the Colony. The congregation of the Brothers of Christian Instruction of St. Gabriel is a Religious Order of men founded for charitable purposes particularly for the education of boys especially of deaf-mutes and of those suffering from blindness. The Congregation in Singapore now conducts two schools, the Holy Innocents English School at Upper Serangoon and St. Joseph's Trade School at Bukit Timah.

The Price Control Ordinance, 1950, No. 6 of 1950

This Ordinance repeals and replaces the Price Control Proclamation No. 9 of the British Military Administration of Malaya (Singapore Division). It provides for the control of prices.

The Currency Ordinance, 1950, No. 7 of 1950

It repeals the Currency Proclamation (Proclamation No. 4) and makes certain consequential amendments to the Currency Ordinance, 1938 (No. 23 of 1938).

The War Damage (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, No. 8 of 1950

This Ordinance extended from three months to six months the period for exercising the option under the proviso to sub-section (1)

of section 13 of the War Damage Ordinance, 1949, which enabled a person who gave notice to the Commission that he did not wish to proceed under the provisions of the Ordinance to be exempted from the application of that sub-section, which barred his right to institute proceedings to recover damages or compensation in respect of war damage.

The Moneylenders (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, No. 9 of 1950

The amendments made by this Ordinance confer power on the Governor in Council by order to exempt any body corporate from the provisions of the principal Ordinance, so putting bodies corporate in the same position as bodies corporate in the United Kingdom by reason of the provisions of section 6 (e) of the Moneylenders Acts, 1900 to 1927 and allow any such order to be made with retrospective effect.

The Rubber Shipping and Packing Control Ordinance, 1950, No. 12 of 1950

For some time past complaints have been received from buyers abroad regarding the quality of shipments of rubber from Malaya, in particular as regards the up-grading of shipments. Accordingly representatives from all sections of the Industry agreed that legislative action was desirable to remove such grounds of complaint. This Ordinance, therefore, provides for the establishment in the Colony of a Malayan Rubber Export Registration Board consisting of representatives from all sections of the Industry in the Colony and the Federation of Malaya making it unlawful for any person to pack or ship rubber for export unless registered. Provision is further made for the inspection of the books and premises of persons so registered and for the cancellation of registration (with appropriate safeguards by way of appeal) in proper cases.

The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, No. 14 of 1950

The amendment made by this Ordinance enables women to serve as jurors.

The Finance Regulations Ordinance, 1950, No. 15 of 1950

This Ordinance replaces the Finance Regulations Proclamation (Proclamation No. 36) the provisions of which, subject to certain modifications and additions, it substantially reproduces.

The Registration of Schools Ordinance, 1950, No. 16 of 1950

This Ordinance replaces the Registration of Schools Ordinance (Chapter 139 of the Revised Edition) and effects certain changes for the better control of Government-aided and private schools with a view to preventing their being used for purposes of political propaganda detrimental to the interests of the Colony or for the purpose of instruction detrimental to the interests of the pupils.

The Civil Liability Ordinance, 1950, No. 20 of 1950

This Ordinance declares the law relating to Civil Liability and provides for the making and payment of awards in respect thereof and enables gratuities to be granted in cases of special financial hardship arising in consequence of the cessation of Civil Liability.

The Malayan Auxiliary Air Force Ordinance, 1950, No. 21 of 1950

This Ordinance replaces the Volunteer Air Force Ordinance (Chapter 101 of the Revised Edition) and provides for the establishment of an Auxiliary Air Force for the defence of Malaya similar to that established before and during the war in the Straits Settlements.

The Petroleum Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, No. 27 of 1950

The amendments made by this Ordinance provide, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, for the exemption from the payment of duty of petroleum imported, landed in or removed in the Colony on account of—

- (a) His Majesty's Government; or
- (b) representatives of His Majesty; or
- (c) the Government; or
- (d) such persons as the Governor in Council may from time to time prescribe.

The Liquors Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, No. 28 of 1950

The amendments made by this Ordinance provide, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, for the exemption from the payment of duty of such intoxicating liquors as may be prescribed when imported, landed in or removed in the Colony on account of—

- (a) representatives of His Majesty; or
- (b) the Government; or

- (c) such persons as the Governor in Council may from time to time prescribe.

The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1950 No. 30 of 1950

The Privy Council in a recent appeal, Mohinda Singh and another vs. The King, held that under the Criminal Procedure Code of the Colony as it stood no appeal lay against any sentence of a Criminal District or Police Court except in respect of some error in law or in fact. This ruling applied as fully to appeals by convicted persons as to appeals by the Crown. This Ordinance now legalises appeals as to sentence where the only ground of appeal is that the sentence is either excessive or inadequate.

The Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, No. 31 of 1950

This Ordinance makes the law against spitting in public places more stringent by enlarging the area in which spitting is prohibited and enhancing the penalty for a second offence.

The Entertainments Duty Ordinance, 1950, No. 39 of 1950

This Ordinance replaces the Entertainments Duty Proclamation and gives effect to certain recommendations contained in the Report of the Film and Entertainments Duty Policy Committee. Section 4 imposes a duty at such rate or rates and subject to such conditions as may be imposed by resolution of the Legislative Council.

The Betting and Sweepstake Duties Ordinance, 1950, No. 40 of 1950

This Ordinance consolidates and amends the law relating to duties on betting and sweepstakes. It raises the duty on sweepstakes from fifteen *per centum* to twenty *per centum*.

The Custodian of Property Ordinance, 1950, No. 41 of 1950

This Ordinance makes provisions for the safeguarding and disposal of property of persons unascertained or absent owing to the hostilities in Malaya.

The Courts (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1950, No. 42 of 1950

An arrangement has been entered into between the Governments of the Colony and of Hong Kong by which the Chief Justices of Singapore and of Hong Kong are enabled to become members of the

Supreme Courts of Hong Kong and Singapore, respectively, for the purpose of sitting as members of Courts of Appeal, both civil and criminal. This Ordinance gives effect to this arrangement in the law of the Colony. Similar legislation has already been enacted in the law of Hong Kong. The Courts Ordinance has at the same time been amended and brought up to date with respect to the similar arrangement already existing by which Judges of the Colony are entitled to act as Judges of the Federation and vice versa.

The Control of Imports and Exports Ordinance, 1950, No. 43 of 1950

This Ordinance provides for the control of imports and exports which has been effected under regulation 34 of the Singapore Essential Regulations. Such control is considered a necessary part of the system for protecting the currency.

The Income Tax (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1950, No. 46 of 1950

This Ordinance gives effect to the adoption by the Legislative Council of the recommendation of the Select Committee appointed to consider the 1951 Estimates that the rate of tax on companies should be increased from twenty per cent to thirty per cent from the 1st January, 1951.

The Weekly Holidays (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950, No. 47 of 1950

During the first four months that the Weekly Holidays Ordinance, 1949, was in operation it became apparent that section 3 (2) which provided that the day specified for the weekly holiday might not be changed more than once in three months was not wholly satisfactory. Various sections of the public observe a variety of festivals and when the festival falls on, or on the day following, a normal closing day, much inconvenience may be caused to the section of the public observing the particular festival. In the year 1950 Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fell on successive Sundays and several requests to remain open on those days were received from shops which normally closed on Sundays. This Ordinance allows the Commissioner for Labour to authorise, in his discretion, the temporary substitution of some other closing day and safeguards inspectors who, in the course of their duty and with reasonable cause, enter establishments to which the Weekly Holidays Ordinance, 1949, does not in fact apply.

X

Law and Order

A—JUSTICE

THE Courts Ordinance (Chapter 10) provides for the following Courts for the administration of Civil and Criminal law:—

- (a) The Supreme Court;
- (b) District Courts;
- (c) Police Courts;
- (d) Coroners' Courts.

The Court of Criminal Appeal Ordinance (Chapter 11) provides for appeals from convictions had in trials at Assizes.

The Supreme Court is composed of the Chief Justice and three or more Puisne Judges. It is a Court of Record, and consists of—

- (a) the High Court which exercises original, criminal and civil jurisdiction, and appellate criminal and civil jurisdiction in cases tried in District and Police Courts; and
- (b) the Court of Appeal which exercises appellate civil jurisdiction in cases tried in the High Court.

An appeal lies from the Court of Appeal and the Court of Criminal Appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council

Criminal trials at Assizes are held every month before a Judge sitting with a jury of seven persons.

At the beginning of the year there were three District Courts, seven Police Courts and the Juvenile Court and at the end, two District Courts, two Traffic Courts, four Police Courts and the Juvenile Court.

In addition during the course of the year the responsibility for the administration and staffing of the Marine Court (or Master Attendant's Court) was transferred to the Department of the District Judge and First Magistrate.

The number of more serious cases outstanding was again substantially reduced during the year. Outstanding Preliminary Inquiries fell from 13 to 7 and outstanding District Court cases from 113 to 36, although from the middle of March the number of District Courts was reduced to two. During nearly the whole of the previous year there had been four.

The process of specialising the work of the Courts was carried further. Cases under the Emergency Regulations are taken exclusively in the Criminal District Court, Food Control and Customs Cases only in the Second District Court, Traffic cases in the two Traffic Courts, the first of which is also a District Court and can therefore take Traffic cases only so triable. Rural Board and Land Office cases are taken in the First Police Court, Municipal and Government Health cases in the Third Police Court. The Juvenile Court deals with cases where the accused are not over 16 years of age.

The District Judge, Civil District Court, also presided over the Rent Conciliation Board throughout the year. In addition to performing the duties of these two offices he was also the President of the Compensation Board established under the Singapore Essential Regulations. The office of Registrar, Civil District Court, was vacant throughout the year. The Registry of the Court was in the charge of the Chief Clerk who, in addition to performing the duties of Chief Clerk and the Registrar as required by the District Court Rules, was also Registrar of the Compensation Board during the year. All clerical work, as also that of interpreters, bailiffs, process servers and peons, required by these Boards was done by the staff of this Court.

There is also a Coroner's Court; a Coroner is appointed by the Governor either for the whole Colony or for a district thereof.

The Courts Ordinance also provides for the appointment of Justices of the Peace who however have no power to try cases.

The criminal procedure of the Colony is governed by the Criminal Procedure Code while civil procedure is governed by Rules of Court made under the Courts Ordinance.

B—THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

At the close of the year the establishment (including leave and training reserves) of the Regular Force, and its composition were as follows:—

	Officers	Inspectors	N.C.Os. and Men	WOMEN CONSTABULARY	
				Inspectors	N.C.Os. and Men
Europeans ..	79	3	..	..	..
Malays	1	19	2,644	..	5
Chinese	7	50	258	1	8
Indians	1	22	239	..	2
Eurasians ..	2	19	17	..	4
Gurkhas	..	6	169	..	..
Ceylonese ..	3	3	..	..	..
Vacancies ..	13	35	146	..	..
Total	106	157	3,473	1	19

The regular Police continued to be reinforced and supplemented by the Special Constabulary. The Active Unit, consisting of men engaged on monthly agreements who have undergone training in discipline and the use of arms, with a short course in Law and Police Duties, performed many of the static guard, escort and similar duties which normally are carried out by the regular Police.

After the destruction of the Aik Hoe rubber factory by arson, a special sub-division of the Active Unit was formed in order to combat Malayan Communist Party attempts to destroy factories and godowns by arson and other forms of sabotage. The men are trained in the use of firearms and elementary guard duties, supervised and disciplined by the Police. The initial costs are borne by Government but their salaries are paid by the firms employing them. The formation of this force achieved its object.

The establishment and composition of the Active Unit at the end of 1950 were as follows:—

Commandant:				
Chinese	..	..	..	1
Assistant Commandant:				
Malay	..	..	..	1
Inspectors:				
Chinese	..	..	..	3
Malay	..	..	..	1
Eurasian	..	..	..	1
Indian	..	..	..	1
				8
Sergeants:				
Chinese	..	..	..	11
Eurasians	..	..	..	7
Indians	..	..	..	2
Malays	..	..	..	15
Filipinos	..	..	..	2
				37
Corporals (men):				
Chinese	..	..	..	7
Eurasians	..	..	..	7
Indians	..	..	..	5
Malays	..	..	..	49
				68
Corporal (women):				
Chinese	..	..	..	1
Constables (men):				
Chinese	..	..	..	68
Eurasians	..	..	..	18
Indians	..	..	..	30
Gurkha	..	..	..	1
Malays	..	..	..	743
				860
Constables (women)				
Chinese	..	..	..	13
Eurasians	..	..	..	8
Indian	..	..	..	1
Malays	..	..	..	3
				25
Constables (Godown Guards)				
Malays	..	..	..	193
Indians	..	..	..	7
				200

Total Strength:—

Chinese	..	..	104
Indians	..	..	46
Malays	..	..	1,005
Eurasians	..	..	41
Filipinos	..	..	2
Gurkha	..	..	1
Total	..	..	1,199

In addition to the Active Unit of the Special Constabulary, there was a Reserve Unit consisting of:—

Category 'A' 678 men who were actually performing part time duties.

Category 'B' 80 men who have been trained in police duties and the use of arms, and who have expressed their willingness to serve if required.

Category 'C' 562 men trained in the use of firearms who could be armed, if necessary, for the protection of their places of employment such as Telecommunication stations, Singapore Harbour Board and other vital installations.

The total strength of all three Categories at the end of 1950 was 1,320.

The keenness and efficiency of the members of Category 'A' of the Reserve Unit has always been notable, and during the riots in December they showed their value to the full. Approval was accordingly given at the end of the year to increase the establishment to 1,000 and an appropriate cadre of officers was appointed to provide a firm administrative and disciplinary framework.

The special contingent of 118 Auxiliary Police, consisting chiefly of ex-Service personnel of many races, and employed by the Singapore Harbour Board to guard its property and godowns, continued to carry out its duties with success and kept crime in the Harbour Board area down to a very satisfactory level. In anticipation of modified arrangements for policing the Board's premises in 1951, this contingent was disbanded at the close of the year, 40 of its members being engaged by the Harbour Board as Police Lieutenants, while a number were offered somewhat similar temporary posts in the Singapore Police Force.

The Gurkha Contingent, which was formed in 1949 as a striking force and to replace the pre-war Sikh Contingent, was increased from 140 to 185, and a further increase of establishment is anticipated.

From January until April the Contingent was on active service against the bandits in Johore where it suffered one fatal casualty. In Singapore the Gurkhas gave valuable and effective support to the Divisional Police in screening operations and carried out guard and escort duties.

Mention must also be made of the formation of the Police Boys Cadet Corps which will act as a nursery to shape and develop the sons and nephews of members of the force as fine material for the regular Police of the future. Thirty boys were enlisted and their enthusiasm and smartness were outstanding.

MAJOR CRIMES AND THEIR INCIDENCE

In 1949 the crime figures had reached their lowest since the war. In 1950 there was a general increase but not to the extent of the first years after the liberation. Of the two main causes for the increase, one was the fact that in 1950 the Singapore Branch of the Malayan Communist Party decided to change their policy of comparatively passive underground resistance and to emulate the open violence of their comrades in the Federation of Malaya. The other was the rioting in December.

40 out of a total of 131 cases of armed gang robbery and 35 of the 152 cases of simple robbery were judged to have been linked with the Malayan Communist Party. Many of the cases of simple robbery were the work of gangs of Chinese youths who invaded houses, shops and schools to rob the occupants of their identity cards. Communists were also responsible for the murders of a police constable, a detective, a bus-driver and a Chinese contractor, and the serious wounding of the Inspector of Chinese Schools, a bank guard and a police constable. An attempt was made on the life of His Excellency the Governor but the weapon—a grenade—fortunately failed to explode. Other grenades which were thrown into the Adelphi Hotel, at two restaurants and the offices of a Chinese newspaper did explode and caused some injuries but, luckily, no loss of life.

The Malayan Communist Party's favourite and most pointless weapon is arson. Communist activities destroyed one of the largest rubber mills on the Island, the Aik Hoe rubber factory, sixteen public omnibuses, eighteen taxis owned by the major operating company and a few police telephone huts. Several attempts were also made to destroy rubber warehouses, electric sub-stations and Boys' Clubs.

Despite these incidents and notwithstanding the fact that little information was forthcoming from the general public and that in nearly every case of robbery the victims submitted without any show of resistance, the Police achieved several notable successes against the Communist Party and detained a number of its important leaders. These arrests, combined with unceasing watchfulness, frustrated many other attempts at violence and prevented the Communists from exploiting the riots.

On Monday, 11th December rioting broke out in front of the Supreme Court and spread to the area of the Sultan Mosque, later extending to other parts of the town. The Police found themselves unable to control the situation and the Army was called to their aid during the evening. By late on Monday night the worst disorders were over but on the following day there were further outbreaks of violence and it was not until 13th December that order was fully restored, although tension existed for some days more. The rioters were, in the main, Malays, Javanese and some Indian Muslims whose religious feelings had been exacerbated by misunderstanding and false interpretation of an issue before the Supreme Court regarding the legality of a marriage between a Malay and a 13 year old girl of Netherlands nationality, and their attacks were directed mainly against Europeans and Eurasians. 18 persons in all were killed during the riots and some 160 were seriously assaulted, while nearly 100 vehicles were destroyed or damaged. At the end of the year 517 persons were under detention in connection with the riots. A Commission of Inquiry was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the origin of the riots and the action taken to quell them.

Of other serious crime, two cases of murder excited wide publicity, the first of an Eurasian school girl in which the accused was acquitted, and the second of a prominent businessman and leader of the Chinese community, who was shot dead in his club by a former business acquaintance, who was later committed after trial to the Mental Hospital. Perhaps the most tragic case of the year was one of murder in which a wooden house was set on fire at night and eleven persons, including children, perished in the conflagration or died shortly afterwards.

House-breakings increased from 906 in 1949 to 1,063 in 1950. The considerable amount of new building in the residential areas gave

house-breakers fresh opportunities. That professional burglars were responsible for many of these offences was shown on one occasion, when 2 men were arrested who were shown to have committed 15 to 30 offences. A gang of warehouse-breakers who had committed a number of offences in the Federation were caught after their first attempt in Singapore.

Reported cases of extortion dropped to a figure of 57, which is slightly lower than that for 1949, as compared with 165 cases reported in 1948. This type of crime is committed chiefly by members of Secret Societies and it is largely due to the effective suppression of these Societies that the position has become so satisfactory. Secret Societies in Singapore have a bad record of crimes of violence. In a long history they have been involved in murders, robbery, abduction, gang fighting and extortion. Three specialist sub-branches of the Criminal Investigation Department are almost wholly devoted to the control and suppression of these societies. Their work, more often than not, is anticipatory and the measure of their success is the present quiescent state of the old and firmly established Societies. Splinter groups have been quickly detected and broken up.

CATEGORIES OF LESSER CRIME

Thefts, other than thefts achieved by house-breaking, rose from 2,889 cases in 1949 to 3,646 in 1950 and the total number of seizable offences was 8,060, of which over 1,100 were offences under the Emergency Regulations. This figure compares favourably with the bad years of 1946 and 1947 when there were 14,443 and 12,075 seizable offences respectively but it is some 1,600 higher than last year. The common criminals come, with few exceptions, from the poor, the uneducated and the casually employed classes, and the crime figures are always closely related to the figures for unemployment.

TRAFFIC

Mention is made in Chapter Twelve of the growing severity of the traffic problem in Singapore. In 1950 the Traffic Police underwent a difficult year, and their task was not made easier by the unavoidable congestion in the Traffic courts which commonly resulted in a delay of up to four months before cases came to trial. Two major innovations were the introduction of a 30 m.p.h. speed limit throughout the Municipal Area and certain other parts of the island, and the adoption

of a system for the composition of minor offences under the Road Traffic Ordinance. Prosecutions of speeding offences were held up for some time pending a judgment of the Supreme Court which, when made, removed most of the difficulties, but in the latter part of the year there was insufficient staff to enforce the law and the restriction had not therefore been given a fair trial. The introduction of the speed limit evoked some adverse comment but traffic authorities are unanimously in its favour. The composition scheme worked well, 5,795 offers being made of which 4,557 were accepted resulting in a collection of \$47,889.50.

The accident statistics for the year were:—

	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Non-Injured	Total
Civilian vehicles only	92	1,951	4,892	6,935
Services/Civilian vehicles involved	8	110	617	735
Services/Services vehicles involved	3	81	217	301
Unknown vehicles	1	1	..	2
Total ..	104	2,143	5,726	7,973

The total number of traffic accidents in 1949 was 7,134 of which 104 were fatal, 1,883 non-fatal and 5,147 non-injured.

RADIO

The Radio Division, with its organisation of cars linked through a network to a central Control Room, continued to play a vital part in the suppression of Communist activity and crime generally. The general public has now grown to appreciate the value of the '999' police call system in conjunction with the radio cars; the number of calls was 3 times as great as that for 1949, and the information received resulted in no less than 319 arrests. In all 27,188 cases were reported to the Radio Control Room, 4,731 summonses were taken out against offenders and 992 arrests were made.

Teleprinters which were installed during the year proved their value in December, but the riots also showed that the Radio Control Room could not withstand a high pressure of signals traffic and improvements were under consideration.

GAMING

Common gaming houses in the city operated openly in spite of ceaseless raiding and prosecutions. The arrest of one of the chief promoters on a corruption charge, however, and the dismissal of a group of corrupted detectives resulted in the temporary closing of the main houses and proved to be far more effective than any prosecutions under the gaming laws. Chap Ji Kee, which is both a public lottery (and therefore illegal) and a colossal swindle, remained as popular as ever with large sections of the public and will undoubtedly remain so, as long as there is no legal outlet for the public desire to win money by chance. Important arrests were made and it may be said that the lottery is not so widespread as it was a few years ago. Chief amongst the recognised dangers of illegal gaming and lotteries is the ever present risk that Secret Societies will be attracted by the opportunities offered to give the promoters 'protection'.

COMMERCIAL CRIME

The types of offences investigated were breaches of the Merchandise Marks and Trade Marks Ordinances, cheating and criminal breach of trust, counterfeiting and offences under the Deleterious Drugs and Poisons Ordinances. Prosecutions under the Finance Regulations were delayed pending the result of an appeal to the Privy Council.

RECOVERED ARMS AND AMMUNITION

Arms	68 weapons
Ammunition	13,673 rounds
Grenades	351
Shells and bombs	263
Arrests	24

Relics of the last war are still being unearthed although not in the large quantities of previous years. The number of armed criminals at large, as distinct from subversive armed men, was small.

CRIMINAL RECORD OFFICE

The Fingerprint Bureau, which was set up last year and is complementary to the Central Registry at Kuala Lumpur, has proved a great value. Important identifications also have been made from the single fingerprint index. Likewise the technical section, from which will arise in due course a Police Laboratory, has also proved its worth.

The provision of photo-litho equipment has improved the quality of Police publications enormously and has made it possible to speed up the issue of descriptive material which is vital to Police work.

The reorganisation and re-equipment of the Criminal Record Office upon which the quality of so much police work depends, continued throughout the year, thereby steadily increasing its value.

GENERAL

Owing to the more vital and urgent demands of security, the Branches dealing with corruption and vice—the latter in conjunction with officers of the Social Welfare Department—were unable to concentrate as fully upon these aspects of crime as was desired. As with many other sections of police work, the Anti-Corruption Sub-Branch was hampered by the very wide-spread attitude of submissive or passive tolerance towards crime which is typical of much of the population. The improvement of relations between the Police and public was continually under consideration but is not made easier by the fact that there is no common language between the majority of a predominantly Malay Force and the Chinese public.

C—PRISONS

The prison population, including persons on remand, and those detained under the Emergency Regulations, remained fairly constant throughout the year at approximately 1,500, a reduction of some 200 compared with the 1949 average.

	Pearl's Hill	Changi
Daily average number of male offenders including Japanese War Criminals	730	756
Daily average number of female offenders	16	..
Highest number of offenders on any one day	1,005	793
Total number of Japanese war criminals	134	17

Thirty-five Japanese war criminals were repatriated on completion of their sentences.

The Prisons Department was also responsible for the Camp on St. John's Island established as a place of detention under the Emergency Regulations. The average daily number of detainees was 84 and the highest number on any one day was 124. A few detainees were confined in Changi Prison.

Discipline in all prisons was good throughout the year. Only eleven offenders against prison discipline, as compared with thirty-six in 1949, were awarded corporal punishment in the form of caning. Five offenders condemned to death were received, of whom two were executed. There were no escapes. The health of offenders continued to be satisfactory. A Young Offenders' section was opened at Pearl's Hill, the average daily muster being fifteen.

Several of the recommendations made by the Prison Inquiry Commission, whose Report was published in 1948, were put into effect, the chief of these being the Offenders' Earning Scheme. During the year the Commissioner of Prisons visited the United Kingdom for discussions with the Secretary of State's advisers in connection with the Commission's Report and as a result of this visit, the Commission's recommendations regarding the treatment of Young Offenders were re-examined.

Education facilities were further improved and several vernacular classes were started with offender teachers working under the guidance of the Prison Schoolmaster.

The prison farm at Changi, which was opened in 1948, was considerably extended and produced more than 90,000 lb. of leaf and root vegetables, and a number of eggs for offenders' diets; a pig farm was started on an experimental basis. Prison industries consisting of carpentry, tailoring, shoe-making, printing and book-binding, and laundering were further improved and the revenue derived from manufactured goods and laundry charges amounted to over \$55,000.

It should be emphasised, however, that the primary purpose of prison industries is not to earn revenue but to teach offenders a trade whence they can derive an honest living after their release.

Monthly film shows continued to be given in both prisons by the Public Relations Department, while the Changi offenders gave a monthly concert. This prison also has a band which played for all offenders every Sunday. Religious services were held for prisoners of the various denominations in both prisons.

Visiting Justices of the Peace paid monthly visits of inspection and the scheme for voluntary prison visitors, which provides valuable opportunities for personal contact between offenders and unofficial persons of good will, was further extended.

D—DEFENCE

Against a background of increasing political tension in the Far East and a continuance of the local emergency, the Malayan Naval Force, the Volunteer Forces and their various feeder services open to the youth of Singapore, all made steady strides during the year.

The Malayan Naval Force did not reach its planned strength owing to lack of accommodation. An extra area of land was acquired and plans made for a building programme on which it was hoped a start would be made early in 1951. Reports on the men entering the Force during 1950 were very satisfactory. At the end of the year there were two Seaward Defence Motor Launches which had been on operational duty with the Malayan Coastal Patrol and earned a very good name for efficiency and smartness. Landing Craft *Gunnery* (large) completed her refit by the Singapore Harbour Board early in the year and proceeded to sea weekly to give new entries practical experience. In November she undertook a cruise to Penang.

In addition to its normal training programme, the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve maintained a nightly sea patrol for the greater part of the year, augmenting either the Royal Navy or police patrols operating in the approaches to Singapore. Attendance of both officers and ratings at parades was very good and no difficulty was experienced in maintaining the strength of the Division. Towards the end of the year the Headquarters Ship was completed and this will add very considerably to the training facilities available and the general well-being of the Unit.

There was a steady increase in the numbers of Volunteers entering the Singapore Volunteer Corps, which doubled its strength. Guard duty in the Harbour Board area was undertaken during Anti-Bandit Month and assistance was given to the Police on two large screening operations. Three members of the Force received honours in recognition of their services to the Corps in the King's Birthday Honours List. The training of women in radar and administrative duties was begun during the year and they showed great keenness. In December a plaque to commemorate those members of the Singapore Volunteer Corps who lost their lives in the last war was unveiled in the presence of representatives of all races.

An important development in volunteering was the establishment in 1950 of the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force with Headquarters in

the Volunteer Building at Beach Road. Aircraft and training equipment for the Fighter Squadron were maintained at Tengah, the parent Unit of the Singapore Section. Great keenness and enthusiasm was shown by the members of the Force. Ground and air training proceeded along the well tried lines of the Royal Air Force. An Advisory Committee was formed to assist in recruitment to the Force and in selection of Officers. It was unfortunate that at first the standard of recruits offering was not as high as had been expected, but later the standard greatly improved. An Air Day was held in Singapore during December and both the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force and the Malayan Air Training Corps took part and hoped to receive a considerable accession of strength as a result of publicity given to them on that occasion. A new Headquarters building for the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force was planned to be constructed in 1951.

There is one unit of the Sea Cadets in Singapore at the Junior Technical (Trade) School. The objects with which it was founded were 'to foster *esprit de corps*, teach discipline, give sea cadet training, produce good citizens and provide the youths of the school with a congenial after-school activity'. Its first parade was held on the 19th February and since that date it has made good progress. Parades were held both at the School and at the Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Headquarters. Training consisted of squad and arms drill, boat-work, knots and lashings, signalling with flags and compass work. The Unit was inspected by the Flag Officer, Malayan Area, towards the end of the year. The work of the Corps is now controlled and supervised by an Advisory Committee.

Funds both for the Sea Cadets and Army Cadets Corps are held by the Director of Education and there are units of the latter in four schools. Close liaison was maintained with Army Headquarters through the Singapore Volunteer Corps Liaison Regiment and growing numbers of Cadet officers now enter the Singapore Volunteer Corps. Seven Certificates 'A' were won during the year as compared with five in 1949. Camping facilities were provided for the Cadets through the courtesy of the Army Authorities.

The Malayan Air Training Corps fulfilled its role as a feeder to the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force and Royal Air Force by supplying twenty men to the former and two to the Royal Air Force, Malaya. Two engines were donated by a private firm for training the boys

and a Spitfire fuselage was placed in the grounds of the Cox Club which is the present Headquarters of the Corps. A women's section was formed during the year and will assist in the first place with the clerical duties of the Corps which has no regular staff to look after its affairs. No difficulty was found in recruiting to the Corps and the training and recreational facilities which it provides are continually growing.

Considerable progress was made with the plans for Civil Defence and a start was made on the buildings required to open a Rescue School. A press release was issued towards the close of the year which gave an outline of organisation which it was proposed to set up, based in the main upon that adopted in the United Kingdom. An important step forward was taken by the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of Defence (Manpower), whose first task would be to form a Manpower Bureau to register the applications of those volunteering to join the Civil Defence Services.

XI

Public Utilities

THE WATER, electricity and gas supplies and the sewerage services of Singapore are administered by the Municipal Commissioners who also finance, construct and maintain them.

WATER

The daily consumption of water over the year 1950 was 32,566,000 gallons and the per capita daily figure was 32.6 gallons. The average daily figure was an increase of 1,266,000 gallons over that for 1949 and reflected the rising demand. The demand was met by a Works which has a safe capacity of 30 million gallons per day and all resources and plant were in full use at certain times during the year. The heavy and well distributed rainfall was a factor in maintaining supplies and was such that all the main impounding reservoirs, except Gunong Pulai in Johore, were overflowing in the last 2 months of the year. The heaviest daily consumption was 36,175,000 gallons on 9th September, 1950.

Total rainfall (average of Singapore and Johore Stations) was 105.44 inches. November was the wettest month, the average rainfall being 14.13. Catchment areas were maintained in good order where access was possible but in Johore, bandit activity precluded inspections outside the perimeter fences.

Good bacteriological results were maintained throughout the year but lack of adequate conditioning plant both in Singapore and Johore prevented the attainment of the desired chemical and physical standards. Although chemical and physical results were improved at Bukit Timah and Gunong Pulai, where arrangements were made for intermittent and partial dosing with chemicals, it was found necessary to suspend treatment at the end of the year on account of the high demand. Additional units were under construction and it is hoped to apply continuous chemical treatment in the near future.

Pumping stations and filter installations were operated, at times, to full capacity but troubles with the pumping plant at Pontian necessitated the shutting down of each pumping set for a period of months. New valve chests were supplied and replacement work was in hand by the end of the year.

Much improved progress was made on the Extension Works programme, particularly with Tebrau Works, the 60 inch main in Johore Bahru and the 48 inch duplication of the Island Pipeline between Woodlands and Mandai Road. No work was possible on the Johore River Scheme but arrangements were in hand at the end of the year to obtain access with a view to commencing the preliminary work. 16.49 miles of mains of sizes from 4 inch diameter to 30 inch diameter were laid and a large number of new premises supplied with water both inside and outside Municipal Limits.

The housing programme for staff and labourers was continued particularly at Woodleigh Park.

In general, good progress was made in all sections of the Water Department activities during 1950 but it is still necessary to increase the rate of progress in order to fulfil the demand for water and to avoid restriction.

GAS

Gas produced during the year was 357,155,000 cubic feet which exceeds by rather more than 41 million cubic feet (or 13.1 per cent) the figure for 1949. This increased production had to be met by the existing plant and although there were times of anxiety during the year, it is satisfactory to report that at no time was it necessary to restrict the supply.

Unfortunately it was found to be impracticable to complete the rehabilitation of the existing carbonising plant during 1950. Five out of the six beds of retorts, comprising the present carbonising plant, had been completed by July, 1950 but, with the load continuing to increase and insufficient skilled labour being available for both the new extension work and the re-setting of the sixth bed of retorts, it was decided to carry out essential repairs to the remaining bed of retorts and put it to work again as quickly as possible to meet the increasing demand. At the end of the year therefore all beds of the existing carbonising plant were in full production.

Work on the new extension to the carbonising plant commenced on 22nd August, 1950 and apart from certain delays in the receipt of

materials, good progress was made up to the end of the year. This new plant was scheduled for completion and to be ready for operation by July, 1951; it is rated to produce 500,000-550,000 cubic feet of coal gas per day when carbonising Indian coal. This plant, together with the proposed installation within the next year or two of a new carburetted water gas plant, with a rated capacity of 1,250,000 cubic feet of water gas per day, should meet the increasing demand for some years to come.

More than 35,000 feet of new mains were laid and over 8,000 feet of mains were renewed by mains of larger diameter. A new 8 inch spun iron high pressure pumping main with flexible joints, was laid, in place of an unserviceable 4 inch main, from Kallang Gas Works to Kreta Ayer Gas Holder, Maxwell Road. This work was completed in July 1950 and the new main is working very satisfactorily. After this new main was put into operation the percentage of 'gas unaccounted for' was reduced from approximately 11-12 per cent to 6-7 per cent.

Sales of gas to private consumers increased by more than 41 million cubic feet over the 1949 figure to reach a new record of 285,228,700 cubic feet, while the number of consumers increased by 20.9 per cent. Gas appliances on hire increased by 1,061 while 559 appliances were sold to consumers and a further 157 privately purchased appliances were installed by the Department. The demand for new gas supplies and appliances continues and the year ended with heavy waiting lists in operation.

Coke and tar sales were very much higher than in 1949.

ELECTRICITY

The rapid expansion in the demand for, and sale of, electrical energy continued during the year ended 31st December, 1950. The actual revenue and expenditure figures had not been finalised but it was anticipated that the gross profit for the year would amount to approximately \$6 million, from which would have to be deducted all expenses under Loan Charges, Rate Fund Contributions and Depreciation charges and the cost of all capital works contributed from revenue.

The total Kw. hours generated amounted to 186,769,460, an improvement over 1949 of 28,384,450, representing an increase of

17.92 per cent over the previously recorded best annual total in 1949. The peak load increased from 32,000 Kws. to 34,500 Kws., or 2,500 Kws. above the maximum for the previous year. The total installed generating plant capacity is 37,000 Kws.

The addition of 8.43 per cent, or 3,375, over the 1949 total brought the total number of consumers connected to the net work to 43,419, thus maintaining the consistent annual increase in electricity users.

This increased demand for electrical energy, coupled with shortage of plant, made load shedding necessary on 58 occasions during the year with a total 'outage' of 141½ hours or an average of 2.44 hours per 'outage'.

By the utilisation of a network load shedding roster, the Distribution Section assisted in reducing load shedding to a minimum. This necessitated continual supervision by responsible Senior Officers and their subordinates throughout the year. Despite staff shortages in both the Power Station and Distribution Sections, maintenance of supply was due in no small measure to the efforts and extraordinary long hours which the Power Station and maintenance staff had to work, both day and night, to keep in service boilers, turbines and auxiliary plant.

The following additions were made to the cable network:—

			Yards
E.H.T.	22 Kv. cable	..	29,315
	6.6 Kv. cable	..	18,967
	Pilot cable	..	12,930
L.T.	660 volt	..	41,956
Total ..			103,168

Hired appliances continued their popular appeal to the domestic user, and the respective increases were as follows:—

Fans	..	2,925	(total 12,121)
Water Heaters	..	415	(" 1,314)
Cookers	..	741	(" 1,738)
Motors	..	48	(" 487)
Total	..	4,129	(" 15,660)

In spite of delayed deliveries of concrete poles the total number of lamps installed was 783 as compared to the scheduled figure of 612. The composition of the year's total was 646 'A' class lamps and 137 'B' class lamps. Added to the previous installed figures the progressive grand total at 31st December, 1950 was 2,758 lamps with an illuminated mileage of 71. From the aesthetic angle the main point of interest was the installation of fluorescent street lighting, in dual carriageway formation along the road 'island' in Collyer Quay.

The increase of meters in service amounted to 6,887, an improvement of 10.2 per cent over the corresponding 1949 figure and an overall addition to the previous recorded total of 12.1 per cent. The total number of meters in service at 31st December, 1950 was 63,773.

The work of checking installations and consumers services and resealing continued unabated and with a total of 16,214, the 1949 figure was bettered by no less than 2,415—a most encouraging improvement, which was accomplished without additional technical or artisan staff.

During the year under review a total sum of over \$18 millions was awarded to various contractors for the supply of ancillary plant and machinery for the new Power Station at Pasir Panjang, the major contract being the approval by the Municipal Commissioners on the 30th of November, 1950, for the first section of the construction of the Civil Works at Pasir Panjang at a cost of \$9,618,563.50. Other contracts awarded were for Steelwork at a cost of \$2,100,000; the erection of Boilers and Pipework at \$1,627,714; Oil Storage Plant at \$746,529; and main and auxiliary Switchgear at \$2,508,480.

A full report was submitted with regard to the 'First Extension' to the Pasir Panjang Power Station, and approval was given in November to call for tenders for two further 25,000 Kw. Turbo-Alternators and two 187,500 lb. hr. Boilers together with a 2,000 Kw. Gas turbine driven alternator as House Set comprising the First Extension. This plant is to be installed during 1951/1955, at an estimated cost of \$17 millions, thus bringing the total capacity of the new Power Station to 100,000 Kws.

SEWERAGE

Increased requests for sewerage facilities were made to serve new housing and building projects. To meet these requirements a very large programme of sewer construction work was carried out during

the year, including main sewers for connection to areas of proposed development. It was also possible to construct some sewers to serve existing built-up areas. A total of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of main sewers, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of minor sewers and $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of sewer connections were constructed.

The only item of rehabilitation carried out was that of rehabilitation of sewers and rising mains; this was continued in conjunction with normal routine maintenance. The use of mechanical sewer cleaning equipment resulted in continued good progress in the flushing through of sewers and removal of large quantities of deposited silt. A total of 46 miles of sewers was flushed through as part of a normal annual routine maintenance programme, while a total of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of sewers was cleared of about 300 tons of silt under a rehabilitation programme which it is hoped to complete next year.

Operation of the pumping stations was continuous during the year except for minor interruptions due to failure of the electricity supply. Overhaul of pumps was limited to those few units which had become inefficient. No dislocation of pumping was caused as standby pumps were available.

The Sewage and Sludge Disposal Works continued to operate efficiently. The extensive building and housing development in the areas served by the Alexandra Road Works has made it necessary to take early steps for effectively dealing with the future increased loads. The sedimentation capacity was increased by conversion of two disused Imhoff Tanks into Upward Flow Sedimentation Tanks. A small experimental filtration unit was constructed comprising two filter beds, humus tanks and drying beds to determine to what extent the existing filter beds could be adapted to carry greater loads by either recirculating effluent through the filter beds or by using the beds in alternative series. Work was commenced on extensive overhaul of seventeen existing percolating filters by cleaning and replacement of existing media. Work on the renewal of twelve sludge gas collecting covers was commenced. Alterations were carried out to the delivery mains from two pumps at the Kim Chuan Road Works in order that these two pumps can be operated in parallel and more effectively flush through the 12 inch sludge main discharging to the Serangoon Works. An existing sludge digestion tank at the Serangoon Works was pumped out, cleaned and painted and put into operation.

A total of 4,232 sanitary fittings was installed within the sewered area and 526 outside the area, more than double the total for 1949. 23 new sewage purification plants were constructed and 6 further plants were under construction.

BROADCASTING

English Programmes

The year 1950 saw several major innovations; efforts were made to develop a suitable system of listener research and a small scale pilot survey to seek the views of a representative cross-section of listeners to the English and Malay programmes was carried out in preparation for surveys on a wider scale. While listeners' wishes were carefully studied, there was no reluctance to experiment in new directions. The increase of 20 per cent in the number of requests from listeners for particular items was indicative of the increasing popularity of the musical programmes and this was particularly marked in the case of classical music, which is partly provided for by two concerts, and three programmes devoted to opera ballet and requests every week. Distinguished artists who gave 'live' broadcasts included Jean Fuller and the Robert Masters Quartet.

A very satisfactory feature of the year was an increase of 50 per cent in live dramatic productions and the featuring in their own programmes of more local artists, many of whom were first 'discovered' during the highly successful series of talent-testing shows in 1949. Throughout the year an average of five local bands and orchestras broadcast weekly.

Transcription Services provided by the B.B.C., the Australian Broadcasting Company and the Voice of America were supplemented by transcriptions from Radio France Asie, Saigon, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and special programmes prepared by the United Nations Organisation. The last-named were featured regularly from March averaging three quarters of an hour per week.

New additions to the regular series of weekly talks on Malayan Affairs, World Affairs and Communism were 'The Radio Scientist' and 'the Police and the People'. Mobile recordings were increasingly used to reflect the everyday life of the people and the topical programme 'Talk of the Town' continued to bring to the microphone

matters of local interest and prominent persons arriving in or passing through Singapore. Personalities included Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, Lady Mountbatten, the Chairman of the World Health Organisation and no less than three of His Majesty's Secretaries of State, Mr. Griffiths, Mr. Strachey and Mr. Gordon-Walker. The Municipal Election campaigns were fully covered and parties and candidates were given the opportunity to state their cases. Reports on all meetings of the Legislative Council and of the Municipal Commissioners were given by Radio Malaya's own observer.

The Children's programmes were developed and have led to the inauguration of photographic, nature, stamp and animal lovers' clubs, each watched over by experts.

All major sporting activities were covered, including Singapore Air Day, the Johore Grand Prix, race meetings and a selection of badminton, hockey, rugby football, soccer and golf matches.

The Singapore Station broadcast no less than seventy-seven talks and features and loaned several numbers of its staff in support of Radio Malaya's effort during the Federation of Malaya's 'Anti-Bandit Month'.

Malay, Chinese and Indian Programmes

The weekly English talks, 'Malayan Affairs', 'World Affairs' and 'This is Communism' were re-broadcast in Malay, various Chinese dialects, and Tamil. There were also frequent talks and reports on the activities of the Security Forces and addresses by Community leaders. During the Municipal Election Campaign, summaries of the platform of each Party were broadcast in all languages.

In the Malay programme the Services and the Singapore Police Force broadcast a fortnightly entertainment of musical items and plays, and there was a popular monthly Scout programme sponsored by the 9th Malay Rover Crew. There were also weekly broadcasts by Malay musical parties and by a Straits Chinese party which rendered old and new Malay songs.

Chinese programmes continued to improve and expand, and in addition to other talks referred to above, included a short daily talk on Communism and the Emergency. Miss Pai Kwan, the famous Mandarin film star, and Miss Chee Low Lian, the Cantonese film star, both broadcast to Chinese listeners.

The Indian Section, in addition to producing some thirty specially written plays, broadcast talks on the lives of Great Men, on World History and on Poetry. As usual there were regular talks on Health and Family Life.

Broadcasts to Schools

There was steady development in schools broadcasting and many more Chinese schools in particular were equipped with receiving sets. At the end of the year the number of schools with receivers was: English 51, Chinese 61, Malay 13—total 125.

Broadcasts to English schools continued on similar lines as in previous years, but included one new experiment and the introduction of a regular series based on experiments in 1949. The latter was a series called 'Music and Movement' for children in Primary II, designed as an introduction to music through rhythmical movement. The broadcasts were timed for 9.35 a.m. so that schools without halls could use the series out of doors. The new experiment was a series called 'Professor Shrimpwhisker's Adventures'. The adventures of this imaginary professor dealt with a number of topics in General Knowledge, Hygiene and Elementary Science. In Civics and Current Affairs for School Certificate Classes, Professor E. H. G. Dobby and Mr. Allington Kennard broadcast on alternate weeks. The series 'Great People of the Past' was repeated in evening programmes for the benefit of adult listeners.

Broadcasts for Chinese schools again included four weekly broadcasts in English. Additional series dealt with General Knowledge based on 'Professor Shrimpwhisker's Adventures', and Civics and Current Affairs based on the broadcasts to English schools.

Broadcasts to Malay schools attained a higher standard and included a number of performances by school choirs, and broadcasts on Domestic Science by the Lady Supervisor of Malay Schools and two Head Teachers.

Speeches by H. M. the King and H. E. the Governor of Singapore were broadcast in all languages.

News Room

The central News Room prepared bulletins in English, and supplied the news items for translation into Malay, Chinese and Tamil. The total number of bulletins broadcasts daily in all languages was seventeen.

Following the outbreak of hostilities in Korea a special news bulletin on the latest developments in Korea was instituted and maintained as a supplement to the 10 a.m. bulletin and emergency news from the Federation of Malaya. Over 14,000 separate news items were broadcast during the year in addition to reports on the latest share market quotations and rubber and tin prices each weekday.

During the riots in December the News Room produced a special hourly series of local bulletins in all languages, from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m.

A greatly increased burden of work was thrown on the staff by the secondment in May of the Chief News Editor to the staff of the Director of Operations in the Federation of Malaya. This secondment was still in force at the end of the year.

Engineering Division

Apart from its normal activities the Engineering Division was largely engaged in planning for the move to new Studio premises at Thomson Road, in constructing apparatus required for the new premises and in installing new transmitters required for additional services.

An R.C.A. ET4750, 7½ Kw. Short-wave Transmitter previously operated by the B.B.C. unit in Singapore was installed. This transmitter needed considerable overhaul and was deficient of many spares and working components; these were obtained from the United States of America, except for certain coils which were wound in the Division's workshops. The transmitter is now on test and will come into service in 1951, carrying the new 'Green' network. A new 10 Kw. Medium-wave Transmitter which was received from Australia at the end of October was installed and undergoing its preliminary tests for service in 1951. Orders were placed in the United Kingdom for E.H.T. Switchgear to replace certain old Japanese equipment and for a transformer to give adequate power output to meet the needs at 415 v. 3 phase. The installation of this equipment was begun. The construction and assembly of the equipment for the Control Room of the new studio premises was largely completed. A number of special types of amplifiers and of miscellaneous equipment were designed and built in the Division's workshops, and designs were worked out for new types of control desks, gramophone playing desks and announcers' tables for construction by contract.

Two new studios were constructed in the existing premises in the Cathay Building and were used for the proving in service of certain types of new equipment to be used in the new premises.

Studios and Transmitters

During the year an analysis was kept of total transmitter-hours worked and of the total time lost with the following results:—

Total transmitter-hours	..	..	19,597
Hours lost	..	..	541
Percentage time lost	..	..	2.76%

Causes:—

(a) Studio faults	..	..	54 minutes
(b) Line faults	..	..	27 minutes
(c) Control Room faults	..	..	10 minutes
(d) Power failures	..	..	528 hours
(e) Transmitter faults	..	..	10 hours 37 minutes

Of these individual fault records, items (b) and (d) were due to causes beyond the Department's control, leaving a balance of 11 hours 51 minutes due to faults of departmental equipment—a percentage time of .061 per cent.

Wireless Licences

The Broadcast Listening Station Licence in its present form was first issued in May 1947, and by the end of 1947, there were 11,818 licenced listeners in Singapore; the latest available figures show that there are 27,093 licence holders in the Colony. The following table shows the comparable figures for the years 1947 to 1950.

Period	Number of B.L.S. Licences issued	Total Revenue	
		\$	c.
1-5-47—31-12-47	11,818	141,898	50
1-1-48—31-12-48	19,193	230,844	00
1-1-49—31-12-49	24,547	295,564	50
1-1-50—30-11-50	26,198	315,231	00

The total revenue includes the receipts from the sale of B.L.S. Licences, Duplicate Licences and Individual Sale Licences in each period, but does not include the amounts of \$20,787 for the period July to December 1949, and \$82,627 for the period January to October 1950 paid by Rediffusion (Singapore) Limited which began operating in Singapore, in July 1949.

A rigorous campaign which was conducted against unlicenced listeners in August and September, resulted in fifty-three prosecutions. In all seventy-four people were found guilty in 1950 of operating wireless sets without being properly covered by licences. All were convicted and fines varying from \$5 to \$90 were imposed. A continuous check is kept in order to ensure that all licences are renewed on expiry and that all purchasers of new wireless sets obtain licences from the Post Offices.

XII

Communications

SINGAPORE bids fair to become a steam packet station of considerable importance'. This prediction, made in a local newspaper in 1845, proved more than accurate and with the passing of the years, this island has developed into the most important communications centre in the Far East, becoming not only a 'steam packet station' but also a focal point for airlines, telecommunications and distribution of mail.

SHIPPING AND PORT FACILITIES

The volume of cargo handled in Singapore reached a new high level, exceeding the previous record set in 1949 by 1,344,049 tons. Of the total the cargo handled over the Singapore Harbour Board's wharves (excluding oil fuel) amounted to some 3,806,615 tons, the balance being handled in the Roads. In spite of the increased tonnage handled at the wharves, at no time were activities handicapped by congestion nor were the 2,905 ships with an aggregate net registered tonnage of 8,282,238 tons, which were worked by the Board, subjected to any significant delays.

The high level of security of cargoes in the Board's custody was maintained. New transit sheds of modern design with clear unobstructed floor space were erected on the main wharf to replace the temporary godowns which were built shortly after the war. The reconstruction of quay surfaces to all the main berths and the reconstruction of old timber jetties in reinforced concrete at the entrance to certain docks was completed. The improvement of dockyard facilities was continued and the Board's fleet of labour-aiding equipment on the wharves was enlarged, giving excellent service.

A large steel pontoon which was sunk at the entrance to King's Dock during the Japanese occupation was successfully raised and disposed of, while the outer emergency stop for the caisson was

cleared by divers. As a result the King's Dock was, for the first time in many years, made capable of accommodating ships with lengths of 871 feet. Use of this added facility was rapidly made when a tanker and a cargo ship were dry-docked together for a period of three weeks shortly after completion of the rehabilitation work.

Many improvements were added to the workshops, including the installation of a new double-sided one-man punching machine for ship plates which has been in constant use since its arrival. The new lay-out of plating and welding shops under one roof with overhead travelling crane facilities was completed. New oil fired plate and bar furnaces were installed; the 3 ton forge hammer was completely overhauled and the first large post-war crankshaft forging was successfully manufactured. Two obsolete frame saws in the Sawmill were replaced by a log band mill and band re-saw machinery of the modern type, which speeded up the production of timber scantlings from the log.

Several outstanding repairs were successfully completed, including the m.v. *Crista* which suffered torpedo and bomb damage during the war. This ship was completely rebuilt from main-deck level and major renewals to the hull and internal construction were carried out. Other major repairs to vessels included work on the tanker *Lotorium*, involving the most extensive works undertaken in the Tanjong Pagar Dockyard since the war; the tanker *Lingula* which was heavily damaged as a result of a petrol fire whilst lying alongside a nearby island petrol installation, was also repaired and returned to service. Approximately 6,112,600 tons of shipping was docked during the year based on the daily occupation of the Board's five graving docks.

Approximately 80 per cent of the necessary installation work was completed in connection with the modification and extension of the Board's Electrical Distribution system, including the installation and commissioning of a new transformer plant of a total capacity of 10,736 KVA.

In addition to the cargo which was directly handled between ships and wharves, 2,336,833 tons were conveyed by lighters operating between the shore and ships lying in the Inner and Outer Roads, an increase of nearly half a million tons over similar figures for 1949. This high proportion of cargo handled in the Roads has always been a feature of the Port and is largely due to the free port policy, under which no harbour or other dues are collected from ships anchoring in the Roads or in respect of cargo transferred between ship and shore.

The Public Works Department continued the routine maintenance and dredging of navigable channels and basins; altogether 367,567 cubic yards of dredgings were removed from the channels and dumped into deep water. A new dredger, which was under construction in the United Kingdom, was almost completed by the end of the year, and some of the 15 new hopper barges being constructed locally were delivered.

The cutting down of the *Hoegh Transporter* wreck was completed in April to give a minimum depth of 40' of water over the wreck at Low Water Ordinary Springs whilst the demolition of a floating crane wreck between Tanjong Pagar and the Outer Shoal, giving a least depth of 38' over it at Low Water Ordinary Springs, was completed by the Royal Navy in October. Two hitherto unknown wrecks and one obstruction were reported and buoyed during the year.

The Public Works Department also completed the rehabilitation of Clifford Pier, which is chiefly used by small craft running from the mainland to ships in the Inner and Outer Roads.

Records of the Marine Department for the year shewed that 10,963 foreign going ships, as distinct from coastal vessels, with net tonnage of 29,134,376 entered and were cleared from the port of Singapore. In comparison with 1949, these figures showed an increase of 947 ships and an increase in net tonnage of over 874,683 tons. The total number of all types of ships entering and clearing Singapore was 49,361 representing a net tonnage of 30,904,630. These figures compared with those of 1949 show that, although 2,719 fewer ships were cleared, the total increase of tonnage during the past year amounted to 979,835 tons.

Among the vessels which remained on the Singapore Register on 31st December were:—

46 steamships	totalling 17,831 tons net
100 motor ships	23,173 tons net
70 sailing ships	8,125 tons net
70 motor launches	1,094 tons net
2,672 native sailing craft, cargo and passenger boats	66,957 tons net

To meet the demand for accommodation a number of new passenger steamers and cargo passenger liners commenced to call at Singapore during the year. The new P. & O. liner *Chusan* represents the highest class in passenger design and is the first of its type to be fitted with Denny stabilizers to control the rolling of the ship within very narrow limits. Among the new cargo-passenger liners which carry from 12

to 30 passengers, mention must be made of the P Class vessels which have been introduced by the Blue Funne Line. These ships are of approximately 10,000 tons and have a service speed of 18½ knots which enables them to complete the run between Singapore and Plymouth, England, within 20 days. During the year, the t.s.s. *Tyndareus* which had been specially fitted at Liverpool to carry pilgrims, came into service and made two return trips between Singapore and Jeddah carrying a total of 3,876 pilgrims.

For the first time since the war, two vessels of the Lloyd Triestino Line called at Singapore, and two vessels of the Compagnie Cotiere de l'Annam, Saigon, inaugurated a fortnightly service between Indo-China ports and the Island. Other vessels on the Singapore run included eight ships of the Maersk Line for trans-Pacific Service, the New York and Gulf Ports via Suez Service and the Japan-Bombay-Persian Gulf and Return Service. These craft range from 3½ thousand to 6½ thousand tons net and 14 to 16½ knot speed. The motor vessel *Cingalese Prince* of the Prince Line called on her first 'Round the World Service' voyage from America and the s.s. *Eastern Queen* of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., called on her maiden voyage from England to the Far East for service on the Japan-Calcutta run. The motor vessel *Anking* of the China Navigation Co., Ltd. also on her maiden voyage from England for the China-Malaya service, visited the Colony. The Swedish-owned vessel previously known as the *Kustbris* was acquired by the Straits Steamship Co., Ltd. and re-named the m.v. *Larut*.

Forty-nine visits to the Port were made during the year by ships of the Royal Navy. These included the Aircraft Repair ship *Unicorn*, and the Light Carriers *Ocean* and *Triumph* and the Cruisers *Jamaica* and *Kenya*. Eighty other Warship and Fleet Auxiliaries also visited the port including the Frigate *Taupo* (New Zealand Navy), the Cruiser *Delhi* accompanied by three Frigates and three Destroyers (Indian Navy), and the Carrier *Boxer* accompanied by two Destroyers (United States Navy).

A total of 36,164 seamen were signed on or off in the Shipping Office of the Marine Department. The Seamen's Registration Bureau which was established in 1949 to replace the former Ghaut Serang system of recruiting seamen, registered 1,722 new names and found employment for 1,893. At the close of the year 17,483 seamen were registered but of these 2,634 were listed as untraceable.

CIVIL AVIATION

The year 1950 saw an addition of nearly 30 per cent to air traffic as a result of the increased frequency of inter-continental and regional services. International airline operating companies using Kallang, the civil airport of Singapore, included British Overseas Airways Corporation/Quantas Empire Airways with several weekly services between the United Kingdom and Australia via Middle East, India, Ceylon and Indonesia. Royal Dutch Airlines maintained a frequent service between Europe and Indonesia via the Middle East and Siam, and the Pan American Airways commenced a regular service from the United States to Singapore via the Philippine Islands. Aircraft owned by Air Ceylon, Air France, Garuda Indonesian Airlines and Bharat Airways were also regular visitors.

Malayan Airways Limited continued to operate an efficient domestic air service which, in addition to several scheduled flights daily between Singapore and airports in the Federation of Malaya, also provided regular links with Sarawak, North Borneo, Siam, Indonesia, French Indo-China and Burma. Cathay Pacific Airways, Pacific Overseas Airlines (Siam) and Siamese Airways also assisted in providing regular communication with Hong Kong, Bangkok and Penang.

From April onwards arrangements were made for Kallang to receive all civil aircraft; prior to that date the heaviest aircraft landed at the Royal Air Force Station at Tengah. The new arrangement proved more satisfactory to all parties but has necessitated increased maintenance work on the runway at Kallang. Investigations continued into possible alternative airport sites where a runway can be built sufficient in length to meet the needs of the jet-engined Comet which is expected to be operating to the Far East in the not too distant future.

Excellent collaboration between the Royal Air Force, commercial operators and the Department of Civil Aviation led to a most successful Air Day at Kallang in December, when some 20,000 spectators witnessed a series of displays by aircraft ranging from Meteor and Vampire jet fighters and heavy bombers to the small machines of the Royal Singapore Flying Club. Of particular interest were the presence of a helicopter which brought the Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Malaya, a display of aerobatics, sky-writing and instructional flying by members of the Malayan Auxiliary Air Force and the

Royal Singapore Flying Club, and a demonstration of supply dropping by six Royal Air Force Dakotas. The Royal Air Force provided an excellent exhibition of equipment on the ground and numerous commercial firms were also represented.

ROADS AND ROAD TRAFFIC

Roads

The responsibility for maintaining the roads of the Colony is divided between the Municipal Commissioners and the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department maintained 226.91 miles at a cost of \$1,485.67 per mile. 1,293 square yards of new road was constructed, approximately $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles were re-surfaced work and $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles seal-coated. Experiments in the use of rubber powder in the composition of re-surfacing materials were continued.

The Municipal Commissioners maintained 171.68 miles of roads and streets. The construction was commenced, at the expense of the Government, of a new dual carriage-way of approximately half a mile at Telok Ayer Reclamation which will open up a large area of land for development. Reconstruction of Alexandra Road between Tanglin and Delta Roads, which had been damaged by the construction of a deep sewer, was completed.

A new 50 feet span reinforced concrete bridge was constructed over the Alexandra Canal for the Singapore Improvement Trust. This bridge will be part of the public road system of a new building estate being developed by the Trust. Widening in reinforced concrete of a section of Stamford Canal as part of the flood alleviation programme was completed, together with the replacement of one bridge over the widened canal. As a further part of the same programme, the bridge over the canal at Killiney Road was widened to provide a double-span reinforced concrete culvert in place of the old single-span bridge.

Vehicles

The annual increase in the number of vehicles was once again very considerable and included an additional 4,500 motor-propelled vehicles and over 18,000 pedal cycles. To replace old vehicles of which the registration had been cancelled in 1949 some 400 new taxis were registered in 1950, including 45 specially constructed vehicles—in the past all taxis have been identical with standard private motor-cars. A start was made with the fitting of Fare Meters which will in

due course be standard equipment. A small but welcome relief to the increasingly serious congestion was the reduction in the number of pedal trishas by approximately 1,000

Public omnibus services are operated by 14 Companies, the largest of which controls 50 electric trolley-buses and 239 motor-driven omnibuses, while the others maintain 280 vehicles. It is estimated that the total number of passengers carried during the year amounted to well over 120 million.

The steady increase in the number of road users, particularly motor traffic, combined with the very low standard of 'road manners' underline the limitations of the Island's road system, especially in the central areas of the town, which in common with many other countries, was not designed for motor traffic of such proportions. The appalling accident statistics of which details are given in Chapter Ten, bear eloquent witness to the seriousness of a situation which must be remedied. Plans for improved parking arrangements and a scheme for one-way traffic in the more congested areas of the town were under consideration.

The traffic Scheme was prepared by the Singapore Traffic Advisory Committee which has also been responsible for many other valuable recommendations for alleviating the situation. The overall problem will not, however, permit of any single or easy solution and as the number of road users must be expected to increase side by side with the general development of Singapore, it will continue to be a matter of grave concern.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The local telephone service is maintained by a limited Company incorporated in the United Kingdom which operates on Singapore Island under licence from the Government. The main exchange which is situate in the heart of Singapore is connected with 6 satellite exchanges. The number of exchange lines in service was over 12,000, with 8,000 extensions, through which the average daily number of calls handled exceeded a quarter of a million. The Company installed a new power plant during the year.

The telephone and telegraph services between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya are provided by the Telecommunications Department on Carrier Telephone and Voice Frequency Telegraph Systems. The existing trunks were inadequate for the demand and

arrangements were in hand to improve the position by the provision of 3 additional trunks, a V.H.F. multi channel radio equipment and a 12 channel carrier telephone system. Cable works were in progress to complete the 78 pair Singapore cable network started in 1941-42 between Singapore and Johore Bahru.

Teleprinter services were available for hire to the public for communication between local subscribers in Singapore, and for communication between subscribers in Singapore and subscribers in the principal towns in the Federation of Malaya. This system of direct communication has proved invaluable to leading business houses and press organisations.

The wireless telegraph service on the medium and high frequency bands allocated to the Administration for communication with mobile stations at sea was augmented by a short range radio telephone service with coastal vessels within Malayan waters. Public telegraph correspondence to Siam, Sarawak, Labuan, British North Borneo and Christmas Island was handled through the Singapore Radio Station.

A radio telephone service between the United Kingdom and Malaya was opened by His Excellency the Governor of Singapore on the 22nd May. It is a scheduled service and calls are booked in advance. The Singapore-Hong Kong radio telephone link was opened for service on the 15th November, 1950. Both these links proved popular and arrangements were in hand to extend the facilities to Australia and the countries adjacent to Malaya.

The first step in the introduction of a system of radio communications on V.H.F. between Singapore and the local lighthouses was the installation of equipment in the Horsborough Lighthouse; communication proved satisfactory.

V.H.F. Radio Telephone equipment for the Singapore Fire Brigade was provided, seven mobile sets having been installed in the fire engines and one set in a motor ambulance. All mobile stations communicate with the control station in the Fire Brigade Department Headquarters. Arrangements were also under consideration to provide V.H.F. radio telephone equipment to the several launches of the Customs Department.

The introduction of V.H.F. radio telephone for short distance communication gained such popularity that many commercial houses have obtained licences to operate their own stations. A total of 128

stations, including stations operated by the Police Department were licensed during the year. 295 radio dealers were licensed. Some 95 ship radio stations were surveyed in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, and 33 licences for ships and 9 licences for aircraft were issued to mobile stations registered in Singapore.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS

The development of the Post Office in Singapore as an office of exchange for mails was maintained. Full use was made of inter-continental air services operating through Singapore in 1950 which made possible 400 air mail despatches weekly, in addition to providing onward transmission for transit air mails; approximately 1,050 bags of air mail have been handled each week. As an example of the development and the extent of air mail services from Singapore, new closed air mails were introduced in October to Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Honolulu, Aden, Bahrein, Salisbury (Southern Rhodesia), Jeddah, Athens, Rome, Prague, Stockholm, Khartoum, and Basra. Air services to the United Kingdom provided five despatches and five arrivals per week and to Australia five despatches and six arrivals per week. During the suspension of B.O.A.C. *Argonaut* services in November due to a strike in London, air mails between the United Kingdom and Hong Kong were routed via Singapore, as direct services were suspended. A second class air mail service was introduced in November to the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Ceylon, India and Pakistan. The Internal 'All Up' air mail service for first class correspondence, and the surcharged internal air parcel and second class correspondence services between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya were maintained.

An increase in the number of ships with suitable accommodation for stowage of mail calling at Singapore ensured regular and frequent surface mail services with United Kingdom and intermediate ports; 52 mails were despatched to, and 53 mails were received from the United Kingdom, the average transit time being 27 days. The largest surface mail to arrive in Singapore during the year consisted of 3,700 bags of letters, parcels and printed matter from Great Britain, conveyed by s.s. *Patroclus*. Regular mails were exchanged with Australia, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan and other countries, but only restricted services were available to China.

In spite of the emergency conditions in the Federation of Malaya, regular railway mail services were operated, although during November and December these services were subject to delay. A serious loss of mails occurred on 2nd August, when all mails despatched from Singapore to the Federation of Malaya were destroyed when the mail coach on the night mail train was set on fire by bandit action in Johore. A total of 132 bags of correspondence and parcels were completely destroyed. Through railway services were interrupted between 18th and 22nd October due to sabotage of the line, and during this period emergency road mail services were arranged, and full use was made of available air and sea services.

Traffic statistics indicate an increase of 23.1 per cent in the number of items posted in Singapore for transmission by air mail, and a corresponding decrease in surface mail. Parcel traffic increased by 23 per cent but there was a decrease in the use made of the registration service.

An important step in the development of the postal services in Singapore was the introduction, in March, of a scheme of numbered postal districts throughout the Colony. Public response was slow in the initial stages, but the use of the postal district number in Singapore addresses was gradually increasing. The valuable co-operation of large mercantile firms and Government Departments in this connection is recorded with appreciation.

Extensive re-organisation of the sorting arrangements in the General Post Office was carried out, obsolete and unsuitable sorting fittings, a legacy of the Japanese occupation, being replaced by up-to-date fittings, with improved lighting.

Full Postal facilities were afforded at nineteen Post Offices in the Colony. Four Postal Agencies, including one at Christmas Island, provided restricted Postal facilities. The Post Office and quarters at Serangoon Road were badly damaged by a whirlwind on 2nd November and members of the staff were fortunate that only minor injuries were sustained. The Post Office was closed for two days during repairs.

Recruitment of staff to the clerical grade continues to provide a problem which it has not been possible to solve, and at the end of the year there were twenty-two unfilled vacancies on the clerical establishment. Due to the diverse nature of postal clerical work, it is essential that the clerical staff be highly trained, and flexible. In order to

achieve this object an adequate staff training reserve is necessary but the shortage of staff during the year made it impossible to maintain such a reserve. Unless educationally qualified candidates for recruitment are forthcoming in the near future, it is possible that the efficiency of the Postal services will be adversely affected. No difficulty was experienced in recruitment to the uniformed grades. One locally domiciled officer was selected to undergo a course of advanced Postal training in the United Kingdom and left for Great Britain in May. Four meetings of the Postal Services Joint Committee were held during the year when satisfactory agreement was reached on many of the problems discussed.



Street Scene, water colour by Miss Margaret Tay, (age 17 years) Raffles Girls' School.

XIII

Science and the Arts

FINE ARTS

THE MOST important events in the field of fine arts during the year were the exhibitions of the Singapore Art Society, which was formed in October 1949, with the object of fostering the practice and appreciation of art in Singapore. With this in view, among other activities, it aims at continuing the organization and presentation of the annual Inter-School Art Exhibition, which was established under the auspices of the St. Andrew's School Sketching Club in 1937, and presenting other annual and non-recurrent exhibitions of work in any medium. In addition it is responsible for a Life Class, usually attended by some ten to twenty artists, which was held in the British Council Hall on Monday evenings through the year.

The Singapore Art Society held 4 major exhibitions in 1950, all of which its Council hopes to repeat annually. The first of these was an open exhibition of photographs, which took place in January. 73 photographers, including several from as far afield as Penang and Kota Bahru (Kelantan), submitted a total of 284 prints of which 200 were hung. The committee awarded 4 silver and 4 bronze medals for outstanding works, and 11 tickets of commendation. The exhibition, which was visited by between 5,000 and 6,000 people, also included non-competitive prints by the members of the organizing committee and views of Angkor submitted by the Commissioner-General, the Rt. Honourable Malcolm MacDonald. The Society's next exhibition, held in March, was devoted to work by local artists. 76 artists submitted between them a total of 278 pieces, of which 156 paintings and drawings, 3 plaster casts and 1 piece of wood-carving were placed on show. The paintings included 8 pictures by Mr. Richard Walker, the Art Superintendent for Singapore Schools and one of the founders of the Society, who left the Colony on retirement in April. Over 6,500

people visited the exhibition, and the total value of the pictures sold by the artists amounted to \$3,363: these represented just over a quarter of the works on exhibition which were for sale.

In May the Society staged the ninth Inter-School Art Exhibition in the Victoria Memorial Hall, in conjunction with the Education Week programme. Nearly 2,700 entries were received from pupils of 57 different schools of which approximately 1,800 were placed on show. They included examples of handicrafts, needlework and embroidery, in addition to paintings, designs, specimens of calligraphy and photographs. Subsequently 382 of these works were transferred to a second exhibition in the British Council Hall. Following this a selection of 48 pictures, designs and examples of calligraphy were remounted and sent to the Federation of Malaya, where they were shown in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Penang, together with 60 pictures by Australian School children which had been lent to the Singapore Art Society as representative of work done in Australian class rooms. After their tour of the Federation the Singapore pictures were sent to London, for exhibition at Over-Seas House.

The last of the 4 exhibitions which the Singapore Art Society hopes to make annual events, consisted of work by local teachers and art students held in October. 91 teachers submitted examples of their work, of which 178 pieces were placed on show. Some 5,000 people visited this exhibition which included needlework, embroidery and hand-made lace, in addition to paintings, drawings and sculpture.

In addition to the exhibitions mentioned above, the Society held a loan exhibition of work by well-known Australian artists in June. This was staged in conjunction with a British Council exhibition of reproductions of western European art, including prints by the new Ganymed process. In November it showed works by four lady artists, Mrs. P. E. Mackenzie, Mrs. D. C. Horton, Mrs. P. Kirby Green and Mrs. A. Ormiston. This exhibition was particularly noteworthy for the range of style and high performance of Mrs. Ormiston, an artist whose work had not previously been on show in Singapore.

The most important of the other exhibitions held in Singapore in 1950 was a display of Chinese paintings sponsored by the China Society in July. The works shown were part of a unique collection of over 200 paintings from the Sung Dynasty (10th century A.D.) to the present day, belonging to Mr. Tan Tsze Chor, a local resident. The proceeds of this exhibition, about \$10,000, were donated to the Thang

Chai Medical Institution, the Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association and the University of Malaya. Neither the Malay Art Class nor the Society of Chinese Artists held full annual exhibitions in 1950, but the Y.M.C.A. Art Club put on a very attractive display of 189 pictures by 16 of its members in September. Work of particular interest was contributed by Messrs. T. Y. Choy, Gerard Henderson, C. G. Jackson and Lim Cheng Hoe. In addition the Y.W.C.A. held an art exhibition in May. The most successful of the one-artist shows held in 1950 were those by Dr. William Clyde, who had an exhibition of water-colours in March, and Mrs. Erica Jepson, who showed a small collection of oils in June: the work of both artists was highly individual and, in their respective spheres, very successful. There was also an exhibition of Chinese calligraphy by a 112-year old artist from Szechuan, and a calligraphy competition sponsored by the Chinese Y.M.C.A.

An exhibition of the History of English Handwriting presented by the British Council in August was an outstanding success. The exhibits, assembled in London with the assistance of an Advisory Committee of distinguished experts, traced the development of English handwriting from Romano-British times to the present day. A number of original letters from Sir T. Stamford Raffles, lent by the Director of Raffles Museum, added to the local interest of this exhibition, which was opened with an address by Professor C. N. Parkinson, Professor of History at the University of Malaya.

MUSIC

The Singapore Musical Society is the oldest established musical organisation in Singapore and caters chiefly for singers and orchestral players.

It is the only organisation (other than the Music Circle on a much smaller scale) which presents music to the public on a financial basis and on its own merits, i.e. not for charity. In its first full year of activity after the Liberation, the Society has presented five programmes, giving two performances of each. In March a symphony concert was given; in May, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, with full chorus, orchestra and soloists; more symphony concerts followed in August and October, and in December the first two parts of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* were given as well as the first part of *The Messiah*.

The choir numbers about ninety singers, all amateur, whereas the orchestra is composed of about fifty players, of whom about 45 per cent are professionals. By this means the Society endeavours to present the best talent that is available at any one time in the Colony.

The year 1950 was successful financially and the concerts were excellently attended. Pre-war, a programme was presented once only and an audience of 450 was considered good. In 1950 the audiences have averaged about 1,050 per series of concerts. At the last three series a special rehearsal for schoolchildren has resulted in an average attendance of 600.

Among the works given at the Symphony Concerts were the following:—

Symphonies: Haydn's *Surprise*, Mozart's *G minor* and Beethoven's *8th*

Concertos: Grieg, Schumann and Beethoven *No. 3*

Overtures: *La Scala di Seta*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Il Seraglio*

Suite: Purcell's *Suite for Strings* (arr. Barbirolli)

Musical activities and training under the Department of Education expanded steadily. A committee with the Director of Education as chairman directly controls the Junior Symphony Orchestra, the Teachers' Choral Society, the Combined Schools Choir, and a newly formed 'nursery' to the J.S.O., the Singapore Children's Orchestra. The committee has also undertaken for the first time the sponsoring of celebrity-concerts for school children. Performances were given by the Musical Society Orchestra, Louis Moyzer ('cello), Noreen Stokes (piano) and the Robert Masters Piano Quartet, who appeared under the auspices of the British Council.

In an Education Week concert in May which was recorded and subsequently broadcast by Radio Malaya, the J.S.O. presented for the first time two full symphonic works and the Teachers' Choral Society, formed in February, gave a creditable performance of Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens*.

During the first Singapore Teachers' Union Festival of Drama and Music, the Combined Schools Choir gave performances with the strings of the J.S.O. An ensemble formed from this and the University Orchestra on the occasion of the Festival has retained its identity as the Singapore Chamber Ensemble. Three schools now have their own orchestras.

In November a committee under the chairmanship of the Honourable The Colonial Secretary was set up to consider ways and means for the improvement of orchestral performances in the Colony.

The outstanding musical event of the year in Singapore was undoubtedly the visit in April of the Robert Masters Piano Quartet, which was sponsored by the British Council. The Quartet, en route for New Zealand, gave 4 concerts in Singapore and one in Kuala Lumpur. This, the first visit of a professional quartet of international reputation to the Colony, was an unqualified artistic success. Excellent performances of classical chamber works were heard, in many cases for the first time, by 1,200 adults and 800 schoolchildren and students.

DRAMA

A strong attempt was made during 1950 to establish a professional and permanent repertory theatre in Singapore. Unhappily this venture did not meet with the financial success it undoubtedly deserved and was compelled to close at the end of the year. However, during its short life Mr. John Forbes Sempill, the Manager, succeeded in giving Singapore two seasons of plays which, although they varied somewhat in talent and appeal, included some outstanding productions. Mr. Forbes Sempill surrounded himself with a small group of young and hardworking professional actors, drawn mainly from local residents, and was also fortunate in securing the services of certain professional players from overseas who passed through Singapore.

His most outstanding production during the year, and in many ways the most significant, was the presentation of the well-known Broadway actress, Viola Keats, in *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. At the time of its production in Singapore this play had only recently completed its first run in London and New York, and the first tour is still current in England. Miss Keats came to Singapore from the American company which had been touring the play in Australia. This was the first production of the play by any repertory theatre, and it is interesting to note from a Singaporean angle that this was the first production of a play which is intensely post-war in its writing and presentation. The play required stagecraft which taxed the resources of the Victoria Theatre, both in lighting and scenery, to their utmost and it is pleasant to record that the staff of the theatre carried the show off in a manner which compares them favourably with professional stage personnel anywhere in the world.

Other outstanding productions by Mr. Forbes Sempill were seen mainly during the period when he numbered in his ranks Philip Guard, a brilliant young juvenile player from the Stratford-on-Avon Company. Principal among these were *Othello* with John Forbes Sempill as the Moor, Philip Guard as Iago, and Vivienne Busbridge as Desdemona, produced by Sylvia Fenwick; the Shaw play *Candida*, Coward's *Present Laughter*, *Charley's Aunt* by Brandon Thomas, and *Ladies in Retirement*—productions which the playgoing public will remember with pleasure during this period. Other notable productions by the Singapore Repertory Company were *Gaslight* by Patrick Hamilton, and *An Eagle has Two Heads* by Jean Cocteau, with Dorothy Morrell, Coward's *Private Lives*, Maugham's *Rain*, Priestley's *Dangerous Corner*, Shaw's *Man of Destiny* and the first production of a Christopher Fry play to be staged in Singapore—his *A Phoenix Too Frequent*.

That Singapore has now lost the services of this enthusiastic young artist is greatly to be deplored as is the fact that a Repertory Company should have to close its doors due to lack of financial support. How such a theatre could be run at a profit is a question of great importance that should recommend itself to the consideration and study of those members of the community who consider themselves true patrons of the arts and culture.

The activities of the Teachers' Repertory, the drama section of the Singapore Teachers' Union, continued during the year. During the first few months of 1950 they organised the first drama and music festival for Singapore Schools and youth groups. The great number of entries, and the extremely high standard of the competing plays, brought home in the best way possible to those who were privileged to attend the various performances, that there is a strong and ever-increasing love of English drama growing side by side with the demand for an English education. It is to be hoped that this fine effort on the part of local teachers and children will become an annual event in the life of Singapore, and that very soon we shall see these young Malayan actors and actresses performing Malayan plays by Malayan playwrights. That seems the next logical step in the development of the theatre in this country.

Shakespeare's *Richard II* was the main Teachers' Repertory production this year, and conformed with their declared policy of giving school certificate students, as well as students generally, the

chance of seeing a play that they are studying for their examination. The staging of this year's production was very interesting. Forsaking the Victoria Theatre and indeed any available theatre they took a leaf out of the chronicles of the Elizabethan players themselves and put up an apron stage with gallery and inner stage and conventional doors to right and left in the courtyard of the Teacher's Training College at Cairnhill. Here they captured the whole atmosphere of the Elizabethan Theatre even to the extent of hidden musicians in a gallery above the stage. The play also won much praise for the high standard of acting and press comment to the effect that the general standard of these players has improved tremendously since their last production. The costumes and decor, all locally produced, were also very fine. The production was designed and directed by David Lyttle, who also played the part of Richard. This play saw the welcome return of Henry Hochstadt to the local theatre in the part of Bolingbroke, after his year's training at the Central School of Drama in London on a British Council scholarship. Others in the cast included Seow Cheng Fong as a memorable Gaunt, and Chew Hock Guan as Norfolk. Music of the Elizabethan period was arranged and directed by Paul Abisheganaden.

There was considerable activity among Chinese dramatic societies, encouraged greatly by the presence and participation of two famous stage actresses Chen Mei Lin and Lee Chin Chou, as well as the screen actresses Pai Kwang and Chi Loh Leng. Many successful performances were given for various charities.

FILMS

Malaya continued to be one of the world's largest film consumers in 1950, despite an all round decline in imports of foreign produced films. A marked increase of 16 mm. films was noted, most of them replicas of films produced in 35 mm. The trend follows the increasing purchase and use of 16 mm. sound projectors.

The Emergency continued to influence censorship decisions in respect of films containing excessive gunplay, violence and sabotage. An encouraging sign towards the end of 1950 was the increase in the number of films imported of a family type, e.g. musicals and comedies.

Cultural film activities were represented by the Alliance Francaise, the United States Information Service, the Department of Public Relations, and the British Council.

RAFFLES MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

In the Museum's exhibition galleries additions were made to the mammal, bird and insect collections, and a representative series of marine shells, comprising 275 species, was arranged for the convenience of collectors.

An autograph signature of the famous English naturalist and explorer, Alfred Russell Wallace, was presented by Dr. F. F. Laidlaw and has been placed in the zoological gallery together with a short biography. Dr. Laidlaw accompanied an expedition to northern Malaya in 1899 to 1900 and has since worked for the Malayan museums in his capacity as an authority on dragon-flies and land molluscs.

A very large King Cobra or Hamadryad was taken alive in the grounds of the Island Golf Club in July, and brought to the Museum. It was chloroformed and killed and found to measure 15 feet 7 inches. A cast of it has been prepared for exhibition. Hamadryads are known to occur on Singapore Island, but the capture of one of this size was an unexpected event.

In the anthropological galleries a start was made on reorganisation of the boat room, which will be devoted entirely to boats and boat models and examples of local fishing apparatus. At the end of the year Professor R. Morrell of the University of Malaya classified and rearranged the exhibit of Chinese trade porcelain.

Three numbers of the zoological series of the Bulletin of the Raffles Museum were published, containing papers by the staff written in connection with their professional activities and by other scientists concerning material from the Museum. The first and third are miscellaneous, the second is devoted to a series of papers on the collections made by Mr. C. A. Gibson-Hill on the Cocos-Keeling Islands in 1941; a summary of what is known of the history, geography and climate of the islands forms the introduction to this Bulletin. In the third Bulletin of the year (No. 23 of the series) is an account of the visit of the Scrub Typhus Research Unit, led by Dr. J. R. Audy, to Jarak Island in the Malacca Strait. The island harbours great numbers of rats, and a study of them, in relation to the incidence of the mite-transmitted disease scrub typhus, formed the purpose of the visit. In addition to collecting and analysing information on this subject the members of the expedition made observations and collections of the general fauna and flora, with unexpectedly interesting results.

Briefly, it appears that in geologically recent times the island was completely depopulated (possibly by a fall of ash from the Toba Meer volcano in Sumatra), as its present population of animals and plants has the aspect of that of an oceanic island, which receives its fauna and flora by chance colonisation, and not of an island recently connected to the mainland. In these three Bulletins twenty-six new species and sub species of animals are described, over half of them being land-snails from the limestone hills of central and northern Malaya.

Original work carried out by members of the staff included research on *Crustacea*, fish and reptiles by the Director and on birds and mammals by the Curator of Zoology. Mr. Gibson-Hill also continued his work on local sea-going boats and collected information on the subject from collections of models in England during his leave.

Field work included a visit by the Director to Trengganu in August, on which reptiles and fresh-water fish received special attention, and one by the Curator of Zoology to Car Nicobar in the Nicobar Islands. This visit was made on behalf of the Scrub Typhus Research Unit and here again specialised collecting was combined with general zoological work. Specimens were received from a number of outside sources, notably a very fine series of birds from Singkep Island sent by Mr. A. H. de Bruyn and some rare snakes and fresh-water fish from Mr. C. S. Ogilvie, Game Warden in charge of the King George V National Park.

Use was made of the Archives by a large number of people both in and outside Singapore, enquiries being received and dealt with even from England and Holland. The Archivist, Mr. Tan Soo Chye, attended the University of Malaya to study for the Honours Degree in History.

Membership of the Library again increased, reaching a figure of nearly 3,500. For the last 3 months of the year the library was opened on Sundays and closed on Mondays; the response was encouraging and it is intended to continue this routine. 2,450 books were added to the Library during the year and some additions were made to the list of periodicals. The Junior Library also increased in popularity and membership during the year numbered over 2,800.

The Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society published 3 numbers of its Journal, constituting Volume 23, during the year. Together they totalled over 550 pages and included papers and notes

by 17 different authors. One of these numbers was a special issue devoted to extracts from the manuscript records of the East India Company over the period 1805-32, and illustrating the early history of Penang and the rise of Singapore: these were selected and edited for the Society by C. D. Cowan, who also provided a short introduction. Other papers relating to Singapore in Volume 23 are *Lung-ya-men* and *Tan-ma-hsi* by Dato Sir Roland Braddell, and accounts of the Indonesian trading boats reaching Singapore, the racing *Jong* and the local fishing boats by C. A. Gibson-Hill. Membership of the branch stood at 620 at the close of the year, as compared with 541 at the end of 1949.

A committee of official and unofficial members, including two members of the Society of the Friends of Singapore, has been set up in conjunction with the Public Works Department, and will be entrusted with the supervision and preservation of certain Historic Sites and Antiquities in the Colony.

CHEMISTRY

The Department of Chemistry, Singapore, is one of the three laboratories (the others are in Kuala Lumpur and Penang) of the Department of Chemistry, Malaya. Its works cover a wide variety of fields such as public health, forensic science and routine Customs analyses and during 1950 its services were fully utilised.

The total number of analyses made was much the same as in 1949 and the samples (numbering about 1,000 a month) were similarly distributed as to their origins. Routine examinations formed a large proportion of the work, involving the analysis of such things as intoxicating liquors for spirit strength for duty purposes, illicit opium, rubber-latex, toddy, petroleum products for flash-point, and explosives for compliance with safety regulations before importation. Outside work for which the Department was responsible, and for which revenue was earned for Government, consisted of the inspection of some 307 ships, mainly for inflammable or toxic petroleum vapours before repair work could be carried out, and the denaturing of alcohol before its release as methylated spirits.

One of the most varied sides of the Department's activities was its forensic work. This included toxicological analyses, to detect poisons in specimens of viscera, vomit, etc., and in exhibits comprising the

poison thought to have been taken, examination of bullets and firearms, bloodstained garments and weapons, including in some cases determination of the blood-group, examination of documents to detect forgeries, erasures, or alterations, exhibits in arson and acid throwing cases and a host of other instances in which scientific evidence could assist the Police in their investigations. In addition to its laboratory work the Department of Chemistry functioned as a general scientific adviser to other Government Departments; the Singapore Harbour Board and commercial firms; it also assisted in drafting new or revised legislation connected with its work.

BOTANY AND HORTICULTURE

The popularity of the Botanic Gardens as a place of resort for all classes and all nationalities does not diminish. One striking feature of this use of the Gardens is the very slight amount of damage done to the collections, and the orderliness of the visitors. In this respect there is no doubt that Singapore compares favourably with any other city. But the very fact that there are so many visitors to the Gardens emphasises the need for more public parks which could provide more than the Botanic Gardens can do in the shape of colourful displays of flowering plants. It is perhaps not generally realised that the Botanic Gardens Department is primarily a centre for botanical and horticultural research, so that many plants are cultivated which do not appeal to the eye.

Botanical research into the flora of Malaya and adjoining territories has been carried on by the Department for many years. It is highly technical and its results are published in technical journals which are neither light nor easy reading. Nevertheless such research is of great importance in furthering our knowledge of the natural resources of the country. Such research entails work in the field, and the examinations of living plants all over Malaya. Unfortunately the Emergency in Malaya has again this year greatly restricted the work, one collecting trip only, to Penang, having been undertaken. This did not mean that research ceased or even slowed down. The very large dried collections of plants in the Singapore Herbarium provides ample material for work which can be supplemented by field studies when things return to normal.

An important revision of Malayan *Zingiberaceae*, the family of plants which yields Ginger, Turmeric and other spices and food flavourings, written by Professor R. E. Holttum, was published in the *Gardens' Bulletin*. Part 2 of *Malayan Wild Flowers*, by M. R. Henderson, published by the Malayan Nature Society and intended as a guide to the identification of the commoner small plants, appeared at the end of the year.

The second post-war Flower Show, organised as in past years by the Singapore Gardening Society, was even more successful than the 1949 one, with especially, a larger display of finer orchids. There are now many expert orchid growers in the Colony, both amateur and professional. The orchid hybridisation work at the Botanic Gardens progresses and expands, with emphasis on the production of kinds which will flower all the year round in Singapore and become assets to the local trade in cut flowers. These new hybrids which flowered during the year were described and illustrated in the *Malayan Orchid Review*.

One of the activities of the Gardens Department is the introduction from other countries of plants which have not yet been tried here and which may eventually be worthy of a place in Malayan gardens. One such introduction during the year was of a *Gardenia* from Kota Belud in North Borneo, which has large, single, fragrant flowers. Another, although this time not an ornamental plant, was an edible *Pandanus*, of which a number of seeds were germinated successfully from complete fruits sent from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. Although one form of this Pandan is a common seashore plant in Malaya, its leaves being much used for making mats, the edible form, which is a valuable food plant in the Pacific, appears to be completely unknown locally.

APPENDIX

DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES, 1950

Showing amounts allotted and expended from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds

Scheme No.	Title of Scheme	Total Grant	Expenditure up to 31-12-50
		£	£
R. 281 and 281A	Sociological Research ..	7,025	6,102
R. 372 and 372A	Sociological Research ..	4,715	2,311
D. 1431 ..	School Medical and Dental Clinic	23,335	..
D. 1316 ..	Broadcasting—Purchase of Community Receiving Sets ..	8,275	..
D. 1493 ..	Infant Welfare Clinics—3 ..	17,750	..
D. 1476 ..	Expansion of Leper Settlement ..	91,000	17,000

Note:—In addition to the foregoing schemes under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act the Government spent some £338,481 on capital development projects during 1950.

PART THREE

XIV

Geography and Climate

THE COLONY of Singapore consists of Singapore Island itself, with some adjacent islets, and Christmas Island and the Cocos-Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean.

SINGAPORE ISLAND

Singapore Island is situated off the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula to which it is joined by a causeway carrying a road and railway. The straits between the island and mainland are about three-quarters of a mile wide. The island is some 26 miles in length and 14 miles in breadth, and about 224.5 square miles in area, including the adjacent islets. The town of Singapore is situated on the southern side of the island, in latitude $1^{\circ} 17'$ North and longitude $103^{\circ} 50'$ East. For administrative purposes the Municipal area (31.5 square miles) is distinct from the remainder, or Rural Board area. The former is primarily residential and commercial and the latter predominantly agricultural, though housing development is proceeding at a rapid rate outside the Municipal boundaries.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Christmas Island is situated in the Indian Ocean about 190 miles south of the western extremity of Java in latitude $10^{\circ} 30'$ South and longitude $105^{\circ} 40'$ East. The coast of north-west Australia lies some 900 miles to the south-east. The submarine slopes of the island are very steep and soundings of upwards of 1,000 fathoms occur within 2 or 3 miles of the coast. The island, which is steep-sided and densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles, and contains extensive deposits of phosphate of lime which are worked and exported.

THE COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS

The Cocos-Keeling Islands, a group of 27 small coral islands with a total area of approximately 5 square miles, about 700 miles southwest of Batavia and about 550 miles distant from Christmas Island, lie (except for North Keeling Island) between latitude $12^{\circ} 4'$ to $12^{\circ} 13'$ South and longitude $96^{\circ} 49'$ to $96^{\circ} 56'$ East. The largest is 5 miles long and one-fourth of a mile wide. Only two, 'Home' and 'Direction' Islands have important settlements, the latter being inhabited by the staff of Cable and Wireless, which maintains a station there. On West Island there is an air-strip which played an important part in communications during the War with Japan (the Cocos Islands, unlike the rest of the Colony, were never occupied by the Japanese). Home Island houses the labour force for working the large coconut plantations on the islands. The only export is copra.

CLIMATE

The climate of Singapore is characterized by uniform temperature, high humidity and copious rainfall. The variation of temperature throughout the year is very small and the excessively high temperatures of continental tropical areas are never experienced. Although the days are hot and, on account of the high humidity somewhat oppressive, the nights are almost always reasonably cool, and it rarely happens that refreshing sleep is not obtained. The average maximum temperature for the whole year is 87° F and the average minimum temperature 74° F. The average for any one month does not depart from the annual mean by more than 2° F.

There are no well marked dry and wet seasons. Rain falls throughout the year. Records for a number of years show that the average annual rainfall is 95 inches. December is the wettest month with a little over 10 inches while February, May, June, July and September are dry months, with between $6\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 inches. Rain falls on the average on one day in two.

The wettest year on record is 1913 with 135.92 inches and the driest year 1888 with 63.21 inches. Prevailing winds are southerly from May to October and Northerly from November to April.

The year 1950 was on the whole a wet one with 101 inches of rain against a normal of 95 inches. April was the wettest month with 15.79

inches of rain, more than twice the normal fall for this month. June was the driest month with 2.77 inches of rain. Temperatures were normal. The highest temperature, 92° F, was recorded on several occasions.

XV

History of Singapore

IN 1819, at the beginning of the year, six ships of the Honourable East India Company lay off an island in the Straits of Malacca. From these on 28th January there put off a small boat carrying two white men and a sepoy guard. One of them, though not yet 38, had already made his mark in the world. He had saved Malacca from destruction, he had suggested the conquest of Java and ruled that island as Lieutenant-Governor for five years, he had been censured by the Company and knighted by the Prince Regent, he was now Lieutenant-Governor of the moribund settlement of Bencoolen in Sumatra and commissioned, at his own suggestion by the Governor-General of India to establish a trading station in Riau or Johore. His name was Thomas Stamford Raffles.

The boat nosed its way up a mangrove-lined creek till it reached a clearing where stood some fifty attap huts and a somewhat larger house; the residence of the Temenggong the Malay governor of the island. The Temenggong met the white men as they landed, with gifts of fruit: through the hot mid-day hours they talked in the cool dimness of the chief's verandah: and when Raffles put back to his fleet the foundation of the Colony of Singapore had been laid.

The Temenggong would treat but was nominally a subordinate, and Raffles sent for Tengku Husein, Sultan *de jure* of Johore-Lingga though supplanted with Dutch connivance by his younger brother. Husein too would treat and on 6th February the Sultan and Temenggong agreed to the building of a British factory on Singapore Island and equally to exclude from their territories all other powers. Raffles' 'political child' was born.

Henceforward Raffles was to refer to 'my city of Singapore'. He was richly entitled to do so. It had been his researches which had informed him of the forgotten past of the Island, of the prosperous commercial centre which had flourished there under the name of

Singapura, the 'Lion City', in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and had been destroyed by the Javanese in or before 1377. It was his imaginative power which had revealed to him the immense strategic and commercial value of its position commanding the southern entrance to the Straits and on the most direct route to the Far East.

It was his strong commonsense which told him that men commonly dislike restrictions, especially in trade, and led him to enunciate that economic principle of the 'free port' upon which the foundations of Singapore's prosperity were laid. It was his self-confidence and audacity which prompted him to an action which he knew must provoke general and bitter opposition. Nor was he mistaken. The Dutch, monopolists as ever, protested forcibly against the interloper. Colonel Bannerman, the Governor of Penang, timorous and jealous, foresaw the blackest disaster. The East India Company directors in Leadenhall Street were apprehensive, and stated their objections to the Governor-General, Lord Hastings. He had no liking for the situation, but since the thing was done it had better remain so, and he had no use whatever for the threats or claims of the Dutch.

So no decision was taken and meanwhile, though Raffles himself was struggling with derelict Bencoolen, his offspring began to speak for itself, and with authority. No more than 150 when Raffles landed, the population rose to 5,000 in June 1819 and to 10-20,000 in August. Trade hitherto non-existent, by 1820 far excelled that of Malacca. In 1822 the value of imports and exports was \$8,568,151, in 1823 it had jumped to \$13,268,397. Patently this infant prodigy was an asset which could not be surrendered.

Nor was it. By the Treaty of London, 17th March, 1824, Holland withdrew its objections to the occupation of Singapore and ceded Malacca, while Britain gave up Bencoolen and all the Company's possessions in Sumatra. At the same time British sovereignty in Singapore was placed on a sound juridical basis by a treaty with the Sultan and Temenggong on 2nd August, 1824 which ceded to the East India Company the Island of Singapore in full sovereignty and property.

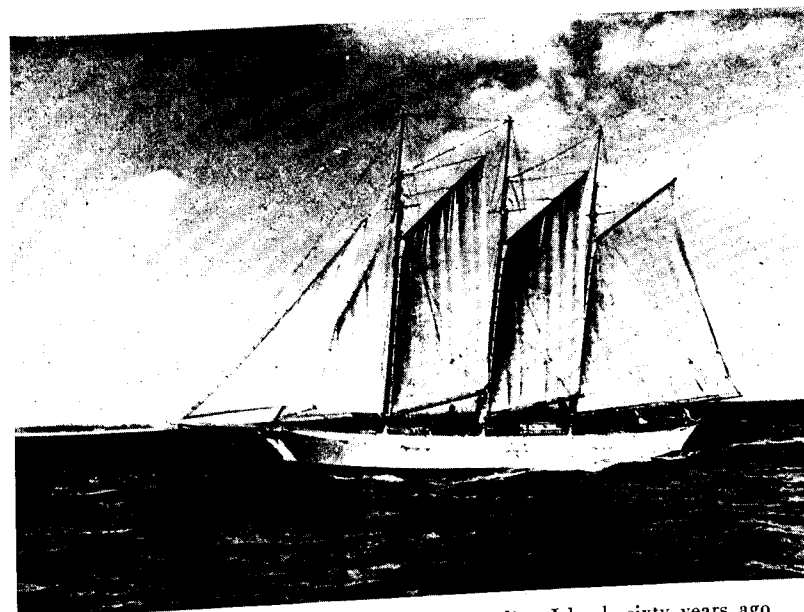
Meanwhile, in 1822-3, Raffles had paid his last visit to Singapore and, working with his usual titanic energy, had endowed it with a magistracy, a code of laws and a police force, trading regulations and a town-planning scheme, and, as he hoped, an institution which would

make Singapore the intellectual as well as the commercial entrepot of South-East Asia. In 1824 he returned to England where he died in 1826, not yet 45.

In the succeeding years the phenomena progress of his creation showed no sign of diminution. The trade figures were £2,610,440 in 1825, £13,252,175 in 1864. The population which at the first census in 1824 numbered 10,683 had risen by 1860 to 81,734 of all nationalities, but with a significant majority (over 50,000) of Chinese. Singapore had completely overshadowed its sister settlements of Malacca and Penang, with which it had been incorporated in 1826 as the Straits Settlements, and it was natural that the seat of government should be transferred from Penang to Singapore in 1832. But *surgit semper aliquid amari*. Singapore was doing well but, thought its inhabitants, could do better: and the drag on its further progress was the fact that it was an outlying possession of a distant government in India, which did not consult Malayan interests.

The Straits Settlements had been put under the Presidency of Bengal in 1830 and transferred to the direct control of the Governor-General in 1851. It was all one to Singapore: it disliked in increasing measure government from India and in the fifties its discontent became vociferous. It complained in general that the supreme government sacrificed the interests of the Straits Settlements to those of India: in particular that it interfered with the currency to the detriment of trade, that it sought continuously to infringe the sacred principle of the 'free port' by revenue-producing devices, above all that by its policy of strict non-intervention with the Malay States of the hinterland, it held back the Singapore merchants from developing a large territory of great potential wealth but now so sunk in irremediable anarchy as to render regular trade impossibly hazardous.

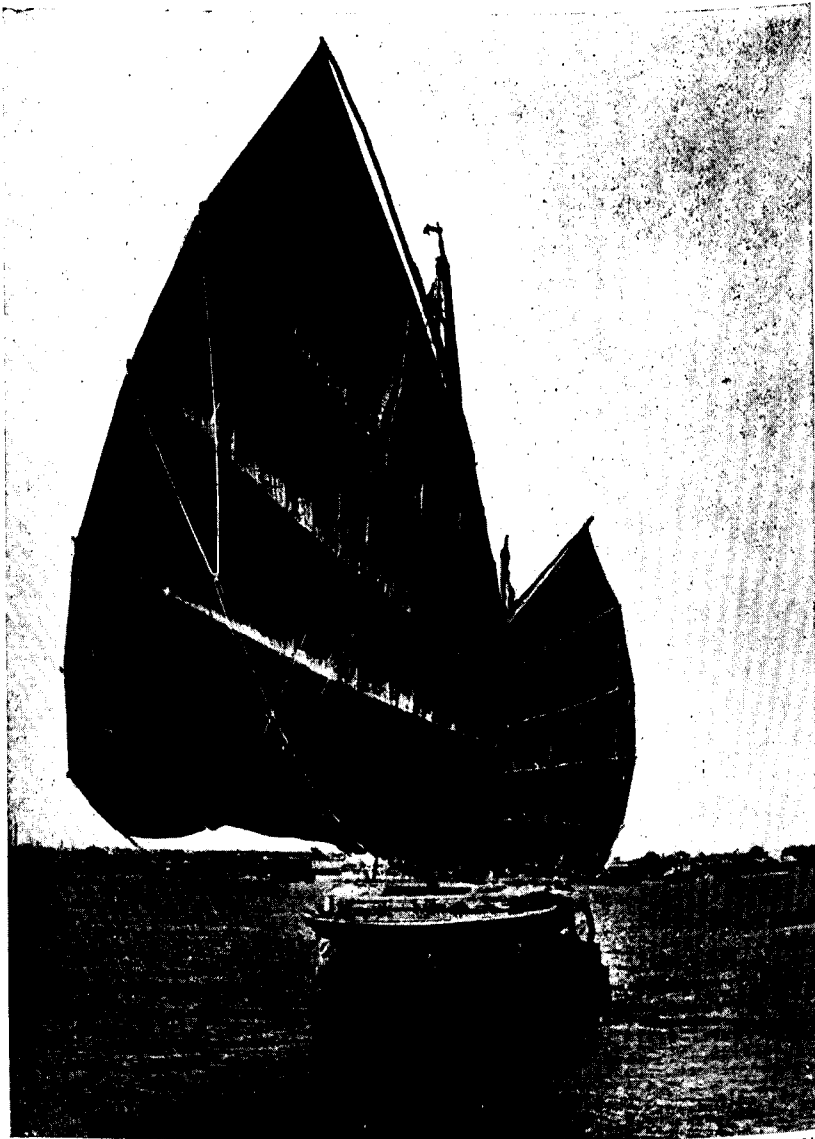
The Government of India, for its part, was quite willing to let its wayward dependencies depart in peace. Prosperous the Straits might be, but so low was the taxation that they were actually a burden on the Indian Government. Moreover since the abolition of the Company's monopoly of the China trade in 1834 India was no longer interested in the Straits; it was difficult to find suitable officials for the territory and protection in war was impossible. By all means, therefore, transfer the Straits Settlements to the Colonial Office. So reasoned the Viceroy, Lord Canning in 1859, and in 1860 the transfer was agreed in principle. To settle the details was another matter. In addition to the parties



The schooner *Albatross*, built on the Cocos-Keeling Islands sixty years ago



A harbour defence motor launch of the Malayan Naval Force on anti-terrorist operations in the Federation of Malaya



C. A. Gibson-Hill

A Singapore Junk or Tongkang in full sail

to the transfer, the War Office and the Treasury were involved, and it was not until 10th August, 1866, that an act was passed to transfer the control of the Straits Settlements from the Indian Government to the Colonial Office. On 1st April, 1867, the transfer was formally effected and the Straits Settlements became a Crown Colony.

The proximate result was the dropping of the policy of non-intervention and the inauguration of a policy of protection and guidance in the native states of the peninsula which in a few decades converted an unhealthy, sparsely-populated and anarchic country into the most prosperous and best developed of all Britain's tropical dependencies. In this development Singapore played a primary part and in the resultant prosperity she had her share. It was in Singapore that European processes of tin-smelting were introduced in 1887 with the result that in 1939 Singapore smelted more tin than England and Holland combined. It was in Singapore and in Perak that *Hevea Brasiliensis* was successfully cultivated in 1877; it was the Director of Singapore's Botanical Gardens, Mr. Ridley, who in 1891, first exhibited cultivated rubber to the public, and though Singapore grew little rubber itself, it became the chief rubber export centre of the world and in 1918 out of a total trade of \$512,229,753 the value of rubber exported was \$153,455,920. Population followed prosperity in a continuous upward curve: a century after Raffles' landing the population within the municipal limits was estimated at 305,000; in 1931 it was 559,945 of whom 74.9 per cent were Chinese.

With justice could the Singapore Chamber of Commerce refer in 1919 to 'the wondrous growth of the trade of the Port'. In that respect Raffles' expectations had been fulfilled completely. But in two major respects his aspirations remained ungratified.

His strategic eye had not failed to perceive the key position of Singapore or the vital line of trade and communications which runs through the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean to China and the Antipodes. Singapore, he wrote, will become the Malta of the East. But prior to the 1914-18 war little resemblance was apparent. In 1873 indeed Singapore was described as 'defenceless' and though the adjacent islands of Blakang Mati and Pulau Brani were subsequently fortified, the garrison of Singapore in 1914 consisted of no more than the equivalent of two battalions, while from the naval point of view it was no more than a port of call and coaling station.

The emergence of Japan as the third naval power in the world fundamentally altered the strategic situation. Japan had hitherto been an ally, but was known to have wobbled in 1918 and to entertain aspirations which must bring her into conflict with British interests. The protection of the Indian Ocean and of the Antipodes necessitated the presence of a battle-fleet in eastern waters: a battle-fleet required a naval base with adequate docking facilities and there existed none such from Malta to Pearl Harbour. So in 1921 the Imperial Conference decided that Singapore should become, as Raffles had foreseen, the Malta of the East. By 1938 a first class naval base had been constructed with graving and floating docks to accommodate the largest capital ships. An air base was established, the garrison multiplied and the peaceful commercial city was transformed into a fortress. But Singapore differs from Malta in one essential particular, in that it has an extensive hinterland from which it is separated only by a narrow strait. Lacking naval and air support the fortress succumbed to a Japanese land attack in February 1942.

For three and a half years Singapore, under the *alias* of Syonan, remained perforce in the much vaunted Japanese co-prosperity sphere, and learnt that the prosperity, if any, accrued entirely to the Japanese and that co-operation meant in effect the crassest exploitation. On 5th September, 1945, the forces of South-East Asia Command under Lord Louis (now Viscount Mountbatten fresh from their great victories over the Japanese in Burma bloodlessly recovered Singapore, shabby and despoiled, with its people diminished and starving, but largely intact, no longer to be one of the Straits Settlements but to constitute the separate Colony of Singapore.

Education,' wrote Raffles in 1823, in a minute which should be more famous than Macaulay's, 'must keep pace with commerce in order that its benefits may be ensured and its evil avoided'. He advocated therefore the establishment of a college to educate the higher classes of the native population and to facilitate research into the 'history, condition and resources' of South-East Asia. When he left in 1823 the foundation stone of his institution was laid and a liberal endowment provided. But the conception was too lofty for his successors, the endowment was dissipated, and only in 1837 was the institution put to use as a school. For a century education languished and in 1919 the editor of the *Straits Times* could write of the 'deplorable' condition that existed in this respect.

One very important step had been taken in 1905 when a medical school was established which developed into the King Edward VII College of Medicine. But it was not till 1918 that a committee appointed to make recommendations for the celebration of the centenary of Singapore unanimously reported 'that the most suitable memorial is a scheme which will provide for the advancement of the education of the Colony with a view to laying securely the foundations upon which a university may in course of time be established'. From this report proceeded Raffles College which was opened in 1928 as a centre for higher education of a university standard. The union of Raffles College and the King Edward VII College of Medicine into the University of Malaya has come to pass and that last and most resplendent of Raffles' visions of Malaya as the cultural centre of South-East Asia has been fulfilled.

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND OF THE COCOS-KEELING ISLANDS

Christmas Island

The first mention of Christmas Island occurs in a map by Pieter Goos, published in Holland in 1666, in which it is called Moni. In subsequent maps this name and that of Christmas Island are applied to it indifferently, but it is not known by whom the island was discovered and named. Dampier landed at the island in 1688, and a description of it is to be found in his *Voyages*. The island was formally annexed by H.M.S. *Imperieuse* in June, 1888 and placed under the supervision of the Straits Settlements Government. In 1896 Sir John Murray offered to pay the expenses of an expedition to study the island, of which Mr. C. W. Andrews of the British Museum was the leader. The expedition reached Christmas Island in July 1897 and stayed there over ten months, during which time Mr. Andrews and his companions accumulated a valuable series of natural history and geographical specimens which now form a part of the national collections at South Kensington. On his return Mr. Andrews prepared an elaborate monograph embodying the results of the investigations of the party, and this was officially published.

In November 1888, following upon the annexation of the island a settlement was established at Flying Fish Cove by Mr. G. Clunies Ross of Cocos-Keeling Islands. In 1900 Christmas Island was incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. In February 1891 Sir

John Murray and Mr. G. Clunies Ross were granted a ninety-nine year lease of the island, and in 1895-6 Mr. Sidney Clunies Ross made explorations in the higher part of it, resulting in the discovery of large deposits of phosphate of lime. Six years later the leaseholders sold out their rights to a Christmas Island Phosphate Company, which pays to the Singapore Government an annual rent and a royalty on all phosphate exported. The island was occupied by the Japanese between 1942 and 1945.

Following the liberation civil administration was restored and since the rehabilitation of the Phosphate Company's works, the production of phosphates has reached a high level.

The Cocos-Keeling Islands

The islands were discovered in 1609 by Captain Keeling on his voyage from Batavia to the Cape and were declared a British possession in 1857.

In 1878 they were attached to Ceylon and four years later the supervision of the group was handed over to the Straits Settlements Government. Captain John Clunies Ross, a Scot, first settled on the islands in 1827, where members of his family have lived ever since. They were visited in 1836 by Charles Darwin, who during the voyage of the *Beagle* put in and stayed there for some while. It was during this time that he made the observations on which he formed his famous theory of the formation of coral reefs.

In 1886 a perpetual grant of the lands in the islands was made by H.M. Government to George Clunies Ross and his descendants who established coconut plantations in the cultivation of which the entire population is engaged. In 1902 these plantations were struck by a devastating cyclone which uprooted 300,000 trees and this seriously affected the trade of the islands for some years. In 1903 they were incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. In July 1942, after the fall of Singapore, powers under the Defence Regulations in respect of these islands were conferred on the Governor of Ceylon. In August 1944 a military administrator was appointed. The military administration of the islands was terminated on 3rd April, 1946 and shortly after a civil administration was installed.

A number of the inhabitants of the islands have been recruited for labour in North Borneo and have settled down well in that territory.

XVI

Fauna and Flora

THE FAUNA OF SINGAPORE ISLAND

INITIALLY the fauna of Singapore Island must have been very similar to that of the wooded lowlands of southern Malaya, but the developments of the last hundred years have impoverished it considerably. Much, though by no means all, of the mangrove remains, but the sandy stretches of the coast are no longer free and undisturbed. In the interior the original forest has been destroyed almost completely and replaced by lightly wooded country or densely populated urban areas.

The only section that has remained largely unchanged is an area of nearly twelve miles in the centre, lying across the east flank of Bukit Timah and including three artificial lakes which serve as reservoirs for the town water supply. The whole of this region is reserved as a catchment area, and neither settlement nor tree-felling is permitted. Here, accordingly, there is still a considerable variety of wild life, but the area is too small to maintain many of the larger Malayan animals under natural conditions.

In general the birds and mammals now living wild on the island are restricted to the hardier and less retiring of the denizens of scrub woodland, small grassy areas and the forest edge. Less than a hundred years ago, at the time of A. R. Wallace's visits between 1854 and 1862, 'there were always a few tigers roaming about Singapore and they killed, on an average, a man every day'. The last authentic record of a local tiger was a beast shot on the island in 1924. The Sambar, *Rusa equina*, probably disappeared at about the same time, and the little Barking Deer, *Muntiacus muntjak*, during the recent war: the Banded Leaf-Monkey, *Presbytis femoralis*, the Berok, *Macaca nemestrina*, and the Wild Pig, all of which were certainly present until after the turn of the century, have probably died out in the last 20-30 years.

Less than fifty mammals are still known to be present on the Island in a feral condition, and even these consist largely of rats (six species), squirrels (seven species) and bats (about twenty-four species)*. The latter include the so-called Flying Fox, *Pteropus vampyrus*, a large fruit-eating bat with a wing-span of nearly five feet, whose flesh is sometimes eaten by the Chinese. In addition there is a tree shrew, *Tupaia glis*, and a house or musk shrew, *Suncus murinus*, both of which are very common in their respective habitats, and a monkey, the Long-tailed Macaque or Kěra, *Macaca irus*, which is present wild in the Botanic Gardens in some numbers. This small selection covers all the mammals known to the great majority of the people on the island. The remaining species, though in some cases of considerable interest, are generally secretive and by no means common. They include two civets, a wild cat, at least one otter, two kinds of Mouse Deer, the Common Porcupine, the Scaly Anteater or Pangolin, the Flying Lemur and possibly the Slow Loris.

The bird fauna of the Island is similarly restricted. About 156 different kinds of birds are almost certainly resident here, while a further 125 species have been recorded as strays or winter visitors: these figures are about half the totals for Malaya as a whole. In addition only about 70-80 of the residents can be regarded as at all plentiful, while about 50 are rare, or confined to very limited habitats in the forest reserve or the mangrove zone. The common birds are mostly forms found in grassland, open orchards and light woodlands on the mainland. In some cases, such as the Yellowvented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus goiavier*, the Magpie Robin, *Copsychus saularis*, the Whitebreasted Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis*, the Golden Oriole, *Oriolus chinensis*, the Long-tailed Tailor-Bird, *Orthotomus sutorius*, and the Yellowbreasted Sunbird, *Leptocoma jugularis*, they are plentiful on the Island. The Oriole and the Yellowbreasted Sunbird in particular are probably commoner here than they are anywhere else in Malaya. On the other hand such families as the pheasants, hornbills, trogons and whistling thrushes are completely unrepresented. Human interference, or at least the proximity of settlements, have probably had at least as much to do with their disappearance as the extensive deforestation. Several woodland birds are known from the

*A full list of the birds known from the Island up to the end of 1949 occurs in *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum* No. 21 (published January 1950). A list of the mammals will be published in *Bulletin* No. 24 (1951).

little island of Pulau Ubin, in the Johore Strait, and even from the smaller islands in the Rhio Archipelago, though they are no longer present on Singapore Island itself.

The principal effect of man's activities has certainly been to impoverish the fauna. It is, however, interesting to note that several birds, including two species which are now common, have taken up residence here in the last fifty years, at least partly as a result of his presence and the changes that he has wrought. One of these is the Oriole mentioned above. The other is the Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*, which has apparently made its way down the peninsula from Tenasserim during the present century. In addition we have the little Java Sparrow, *Padda oryzivora*, the Javan Myna, *A. f. javanicus*, the Ceylon House Crow, *Corvus splendens*, and two bulbuls which arrived as caged birds and, escaping, have formed breeding colonies in parts of the island. Several other species have established themselves temporarily in this way and then died out again.

About 40 of the 125 non-resident birds occur regularly and in some numbers, either as visitors throughout the northern winter or as passage migrants: some, mostly shore birds, are very plentiful during the period of their stay here. The remainder only reach our area in very small numbers, occasionally, or as vagrants represented so far by only one or two records. In many respects the numbers of migrants and winter visitors are disappointingly small, both in terms of species and of individuals. It seems that the great movements of birds along the shores of the Malay Peninsula travel past to the east and west of Singapore, and miss the Island itself.

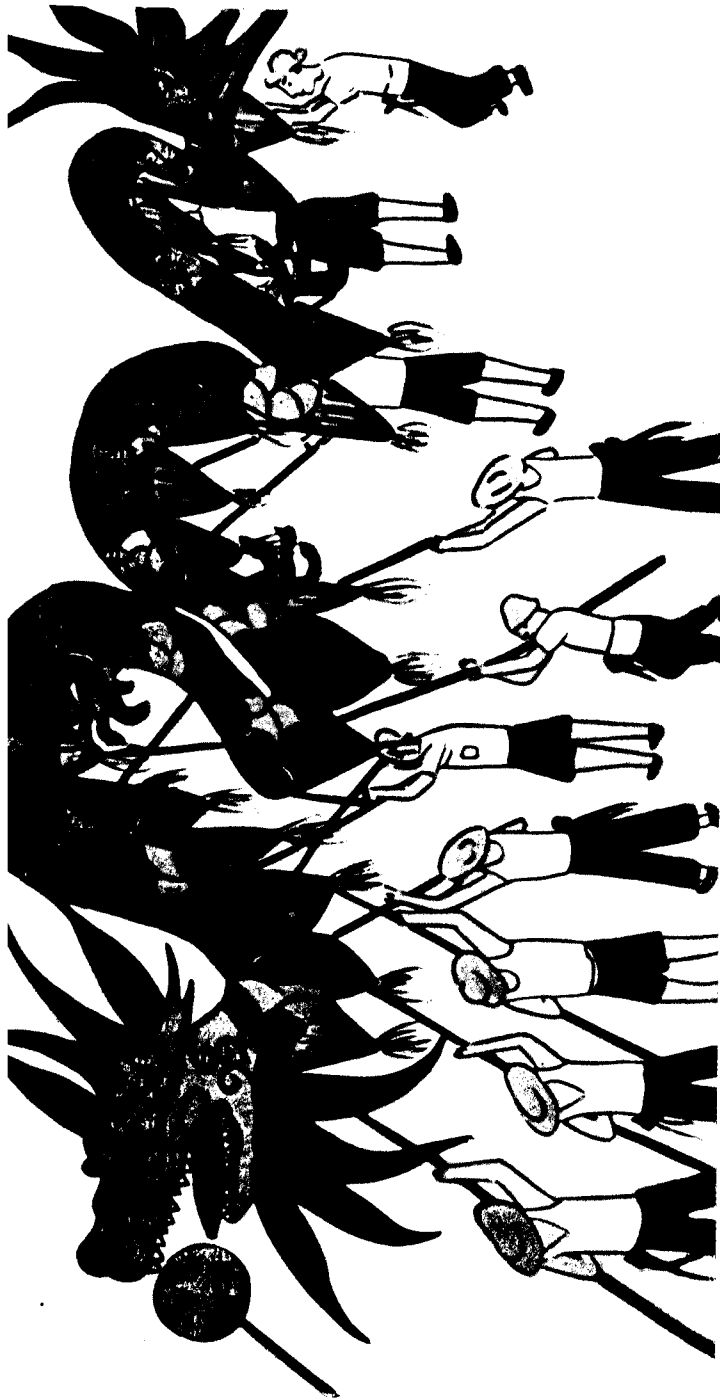
Reptiles are well represented. Of the non-marine forms four tortoises, between fifteen and twenty kinds of lizards and over forty of snakes are probably still found here. The commonest tortoise is the Spiny Hill Tortoise, *Geomyda spinosa*, which is often encountered in the catchment area jungle. The most noticeable of the lizards are the little House Geckos or *Chichaks*, which astonish new-comers to the tropics by their ability to walk upside down on the ceiling. So far from retreating before the advent of civilisation these lizards flourish and multiply in houses, whose electric lights attract insects and furnish them with a copious artificial supply of food. In gardens and along roadsides the Flying Lizard (*Draco volans*) is quite often seen gliding on outstretched membranes from one tree to another and

the Crested Tree-lizard (*Calotes cristatellus*), often miscalled 'Chameleon', is not uncommon. Malaya's largest lizard, the Common Monitor (*Varanus Salvator*) is still found in the less densely populated districts, and occasionally raids chicken-runs in the rural areas.

Of the surprisingly large total of snakes six are venomous and only two of these dangerously so. These are the two Cobras, *Naja naja* the Black Cobra and *Naja hannah* the Hamadryad or King Cobra. The latter is the largest poisonous snake in the world and in July 1950 a specimen of 15 feet 7 inches was captured in the catchment area near the Island Golf Club. The Black Cobra is by no means rare, but extremely few cases of its bite are reported and it can be said with confidence that in Singapore (and indeed throughout Malaya) the hazard of snake-bite need not be taken very seriously. Of the harmless snakes the House Snake (*Lycodon aulicus*) is the most frequently encountered and the beautiful black, green-spotted Paradise Tree-Snake (*Chrysopelia paradisi*) is also very common. Pythons (*Python reticulatus*) are quite often captured but are usually not of any great size.

Frogs and toads are present in some variety. The Common Asiatic Toad (*Bufo melanostictus*) is abundant and furnishes students of biology at the University with an introduction to the technique of dissection. The author of the bellowing chorus that arises from swampy places in rainy weather is the so-called Bull-frog (*Caloula pulchra*). This species is said not to be native to Singapore but to have been introduced shortly before the beginning of the present century.

A considerable fauna of freshwater fish inhabits the island's ponds and streams, and especially the catchment area reservoirs. Many of them, by reason of their beauty and diminutive size, are favourites of aquarium keepers. Others are of interest from their peculiar habits; among these the celebrated Climbing Perch (*Anabas testudineus*) is worthy of mention. This fish possesses an accessory air-breathing organ which enables it to live for quite long periods out of the water provided it can keep its body and gill-chambers moist. In rainy weather Climbing Perches will deliberately leave the water and make their way across country in search of new dwelling places; in this way newly made ponds soon become colonised by them. One small fish, *Rasbora alton*, is quite common in the waters of the catchment area but has never been taken in any locality outside Singapore Island.



Dragon Dance by Miss Cheung Mun Chit, Standard V.A. Raffles Girls' School.

Of the terrestrial invertebrate animals little can be said beyond the fact that they are extremely numerous and varied. This is particularly true of the insects, and the catchment area jungle affords a rich hunting ground for the casual butterfly collector and the serious entomologist alike. A few of the invertebrates are noxious. The sting of the large scorpion (*Heterometrus*) and the poisonous bite of the big centipedes (*Scolopendra*) are painful and severe but not to be regarded as dangerous. The Giant Snail (*Achatina fulica*) is a native of Africa but must now be admitted as a conspicuous, albeit unwelcome, member of the Malayan fauna. Introduced probably via Mauritius and Ceylon, it first made its appearance in Malaya about 1911. It is now a widely spread pest of gardeners and vegetable growers throughout South-East Asia and has even reached some of the islands of the tropical Pacific.

In conclusion mention must be made of the rich fauna found around the Island's coasts. Fish, molluscs, crustaceans and many other animals occur in great variety, particularly as a number of distinct littoral environments are represented. These include gently shelving sandy and muddy shores and extensive mangrove swamps. Many of the islets south of Singapore have rocky shores and coral reefs border some of the more outlying of them.

THE FLORA OF SINGAPORE

When Sir Stamford Raffles first landed in Singapore nearly the whole island must have been covered by primitive lowland forest, with mangrove forest along the muddy coasts and along the banks of tidal creeks. Today most of that forest has disappeared, except for small patches such as those on Bukit Timah and in the water catchment area, but despite the great changes that have taken place, the abundant rainfall and absence of marked seasonal changes in Singapore ensure that there is no lack of the greenness and luxuriance which are such striking features of the vegetation of this region.

The original forest was much the same as that which covers large areas of the lowlands of the Malay Peninsula, a rich and complex association of trees, shrubs and climbers. A sample of it is to be seen in the Bukit Timah Forest Reserve, where many noble trees still stand and where the exceedingly complex nature of the flora can be appreciated. So complex is it that even in this small area, which has been a *locus classicus* of Malayan botany for nearly a century,

and which has been considerably reduced in size in the past fifty years, new discoveries can still be made, not only of small and insignificant plants, but of large trees, one or two of which have been found in recent years to be new to science and several others to be new to Singapore Island.

The forest is evergreen, although it consists almost entirely of broad-leaved trees. There is no time during the year when the trees stand bare of leaves. Most trees continually drop a few leaves and keep renewing them. Some shed their leaves all at once, but they stand bare for a very short time and quickly reclothe themselves, and the odd individual here and there behaving in this manner does not alter the general evergreen aspect. There is also no fixed or general flowering season. Each kind of plant is a law unto itself and responds to climatic changes in its own particular way. The Pigeon Orchid, which is so familiar an object in Singapore with the sudden appearance of its fragile, white flowers all opening together, is a good example, although it is not a forest plant. It develops its flower buds to a certain stage and then rests, waiting for the sudden fall in temperature which accompanies a tropical rain storm. This starts the buds growing, and nine days later all the plants in the area affected by the storm bloom simultaneously. The gradual drop in temperature which occurs every night has no effect. Only a sudden change will pull the trigger.

First impressions of the tropical rain forest characteristic of the lowlands of Malaya are of the extraordinary numbers of different plants and of the paucity of flower. The forest floor is covered by a mass of seedlings, shrubs and herbs, with here and there a small palm and it is only occasionally that one sees any colour but green in a great variety of shades. A forest giant may have its head covered in flower, but very often the only clue is the carpet of fallen corollas on the ground beneath it. But although one may miss the colour that enlivens the spring woods in a temperate climate, there is much else of interest. There are the tall, straight, unbranched boles of the larger trees, some perched on stilt roots, some strongly buttressed, some cylindrical to ground level; the clusters of flowers and fruits springing from the very base of the trunks of others; the strangling figs, which begin life by germinating high up in the fork of a tree, sending out roots which encircle the host in a basket work which

gradually squeezes it to death, so that the fig establishes itself eventually in the ground, and the host which it replaces dies and crumbles away; the climbing palms or rattans with their formidable array of thorns and fish-hooks. Then there are the epiphytes, those plants which perch themselves on branches of trees wherever the roughness of the bark or a fork allows them to find a foothold and a place where debris can collect. Such epiphytes do not take nourishment from the host, as parasites do. They may damage their hosts, but only by weight of numbers, whereas true parasites, which are also common on forest trees, actually penetrate with their roots the tissues of their host and rob it of food. Although orchids and ferns are perhaps the commonest epiphytes, many other kinds of plant adopt the habit. One very interesting one in the Bukit Timah Forest was a Rhododendron which grew high up in the fork of an old and massive *Seraya*. This ancient tree fell down a few years ago, destroying the Rhododendron, which was probably the only plant of its kind on Singapore Island.

The mangrove forests, although little of them now remains, are much more interesting than a casual inspection would indicate. In contrast to dry land forest, mangrove consists of comparatively few kinds of trees, all of which are adapted to grow in salt water, and which, in fact, are unable to exist elsewhere than in tidal sea water, and then only in sheltered places where there is little wave action. Unlike inland forest, some of the mangrove species are gregarious, and this, along with the few species involved, accounts for the uniform appearance of any large area of mangrove. At low tide a tangle of stilt roots and breathing roots is exposed, sometimes so numerous that it is impossible to force one's way through them. The curious fruits are noticeable, for the root grows out of the fruit while it is still attached to the tree and may reach two or three feet long. When the fruit eventually does fall, the long root bores into the mud and anchors the seedling. Associated with the mangrove and growing with it in tidal swamps are two palms, the tall, graceful *Nibong* with its strongly spiny stem and the *Nipah*, a stemless palm with very large stiff leaves.

Besides lowland and mangrove forests, other types of original vegetation are represented here and there. In the Seletar and Mandai districts there are patches of freshwater swamp forest very like that

which covers vast areas in south-east Johore. The plants characteristic of the sandy east coast beaches reach Changi and the islands in that neighbourhood. The cliffs at Labrador, at the western approaches to Keppel Harbour, are covered by a scrub in which grows a most interesting fern called *Dipteris conjugata*, one of those ancient plants which overseas botanists are always anxious to see alive and in its native habitat. This has been found at two other places, by the sea, in Singapore Island, but nowhere else in the country, perhaps nowhere else in the Malaysian region, is it found at sea-level.

An estimate of the numbers of the native flora of Singapore gives a figure of about 2,300 species, including grasses, sedges and ferns, but excluding mosses, lichens, fungi and other lower forms of plant life. About 180 of this number are orchids, but with the destruction of most of the mangrove forests, many orchids which were epiphytic on mangrove trees have disappeared. Some of the forest plants, too, are no longer to be found, and must be considered extinct.

Forest, of course, is no longer the dominant feature of the vegetation of Singapore Island. Outside the urban areas, rubber and coconut plantations, orchards and vegetable farms are to be found wherever the soil is suitable for them. There are, however, areas of secondary growth where long ago the forest was cut down and where cultivation has now been abandoned. The gambier and pepper planters, about the middle of last century, exhausted the soil of many acres in Singapore and moved away to lay waste other areas. After them came that universal pest, lalang grass, which establishes itself very rapidly and very thoroughly in any open abandoned space. It cannot tolerate shade, so that, if it is not set on fire, it is gradually replaced by a dense growth of soft-wooded shrubs and small trees. But fire encourages it by killing all other plants, leaving the underground runners of the lalang untouched. Extensive lalang areas are not now so common as they used to be. Evidence that they did cover much larger areas is to be seen in the roadside avenues of trees of *Jambu laut* (*Eugenia grandis*) which still exist. This tree was largely planted in the eighties of last century to check grass fires, for it does not burn readily.

Although these expanses of scrubby secondary growth look barren and uninteresting, they contain a surprising number of species, some of them well worth study. One of the most curious is *Nepenthes*, the Pitcher Plant or Monkey Cup, of which at least three species are

common in Singapore. They are scrambling plants, furnished with oddly shaped and coloured hollow pitchers which dangle from the leaf-tips or are seated on the ground. The pitchers are elaborately designed to trap and drown insects, which are gradually absorbed and form part of the food requirements of the plant.

If secondary growth is left untouched, the seeds of forest trees, distributed by animals or birds or by the wind, may find the shady, moist conditions that they must have to germinate and survive, so that primitive forest may eventually re-establish itself. This is an exceedingly slow process. On Singapore Island, with the ever increasing pressure of its expanding population, there is very little likelihood of any such change being observed. We shall do well if we are able to keep intact the remaining relics of the native vegetation for the benefit of our students and lovers of nature.

The clearing away of the original forest and the establishment of farms, plantations and gardens has allowed the entry of many alien plants. Many of these have been introduced accidentally, many as food or ornamental plants, and, finding congenial conditions, proceed to run wild, often with surprising vigour. Some are now so well established that it is hard to believe that they are not native. The very common Mimosa, or Sensitive Plant, is an American which has been in Singapore for well over 100 years; and the common Lantana is also an alien and also American. It is interesting to find that so many of our weeds and food plants are American in origin. The centre of distribution of these plants for South-East Asia seems to have been the Philippines. It is thought that the plants were brought from the New World by the Acapulco galleons trading between the Pacific coast of Mexico and the Philippines, when these islands were under Spanish rule.

Even today, although the entry of foreign plants is carefully watched, mainly because noxious plant diseases must be kept out, aliens do manage to evade regulations and quarantine. These intruders are usually quite inoffensive, such as the two grasses discovered during the past year, both of them previously unknown in Singapore.

XVII

Administration

THERE were no changes in the constitution of the Colony during the year.

The Governor is appointed by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, during His Majesty's pleasure. His office is constituted and his powers defined by the Singapore Colony Order in Council dated 27th March, 1946, and by Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet on the same date.

The Executive Council and the Legislative Council are constituted under the Singapore Colony Orders in Council, 1946 to 1948. The Executive Council consists of eleven members and is made up as follows—A Chairman, four *ex-officio* members, two official members and four unofficial members all appointed by the Governor in pursuance of His Majesty's Instructions through a Secretary of State.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as president, four *ex-officio* members, five nominated official members, four nominated unofficial members and nine elected members, thus providing an unofficial majority in the Council.

Three of the nine elected members are elected by the three Chambers of Commerce and of the remaining six, four are elected from two Municipal electoral districts each returning two members and two from rural electoral areas each returning one member.

The Legislative Council, at a meeting held on the 21st March, 1950, passed a resolution that a recommendation be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies requesting an amendment to the Singapore Colony Orders in Council, 1946 to 1948, in order to provide for an increase in the number of members of the Legislative Council elected by popular vote to nine, thereby raising the total number of elected members to twelve and the number of unofficial members to sixteen. His Majesty in Council was pleased, accordingly, to make

the Singapore Colony (Amendment) Order in Council, 1950, on the 21st December, 1950. The Order also provides for the appointment of a Deputy President of the Legislative Council. To give effect to the Order and in anticipation of the dissolution of the first Legislative Council early in 1951, an Electoral Procedure Committee was appointed to recommend the boundaries and names of the new electoral districts, and desirable changes in election procedure. The Municipal area was divided into six electoral districts, the boundaries being co-terminous with the Municipal Wards, and the Rural area was divided into three districts, thus providing nine single member constituencies.

No bye-elections to the Legislative Council were necessary during 1950. The numbers on the Electoral Register increased by 11,975 to 48,155. To qualify for registration a man or woman must be a British citizen over 21 years of age: must not have taken any steps to acknowledge 'allegiance, obedience or adherence to any foreign power or State' or held office during the past 3 years under the Government of a foreign power or hold a foreign passport: and must have resided in the Colony for the past 3 years.

The public affairs of the Colony are administered, under the direction of the Governor in matters requiring submission to him, by the Colonial Secretary and his staff; District Officers are stationed in Christmas Island and in the Cocos-Keeling Islands.

Under the provisions of Municipal Elections (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 29 of 1948) as amended, the Municipal Commission consists of twenty-seven members under an official President nominated by the Governor after consultation with the Commissioners. Of the twenty-seven members, nine are nominated by the Governor at his discretion and eighteen are elected from six wards in annual elections. Each Commissioner serves for a period of three years, one-third retiring each year.

Six members retired in December 1950 and an election was held to fill the vacancies. Sixteen candidates contested the election, six Labour, six Independents and four Progressives. There was a 50 per cent poll. Of those elected three were Progressives, one was Labour and two were Independents. After the election, the composition of the elected element of the Commission was nine Progressives, three Labour, and six Independents.

The numbers on the Municipal Commission Electoral Register increased by 9,365 to 22,324. Qualifications for the franchise are similar to those for the Legislative Council with the additional requirement of ownership, occupation, or lodging in property to minimum specified values, or residence within the Municipal area for one year out of the preceding two.

The Rural Board jurisdiction extends over the whole of the Colony including the surrounding islands, outside the Municipal Area. The Board administers directly such matters as water supply, markets, parks and a building inspectorate, while health and rural engineering are administered by the appropriate Government Departments. The Board is presided over by an official chairman, the Commissioner of Lands, and consists of four officials and six nominated unofficials.

Contact between the Board and the rural public is assisted by seven Rural District Committees. These Committees have no statutory basis or powers, but are a first step towards the establishment of Parish Councils and provide a valuable opening for those willing to give their services on a voluntary basis in the interests of the public, and as a stimulus to interest in public affairs. During 1950 the Committees performed useful work in aid of adult education schemes and in liaison between the Police and the people.

Further steps were taken during 1950 to implement the policy of appointing locally domiciled officers to high posts in the Service. Early in the year the Public Services Commission Designate was established to deal with applications for appointment and promotion to the higher posts on the Estimates of the Colony under the terms of the Public Services Commission Ordinance 1949, which had not yet been brought into force. The Public Services Commission Designate consisted of a retired Judge as Chairman Designate, with two unofficial members. The Commission Designate tendered advice on all applications for appointment and promotion within Divisions I, II and III of the Service and also on the selection of candidates for departmental scholarships, of which a very large number was provided.

Higher Schemes of Service were passed for a large number of Services which would run parallel with the various Colonial Unified Services and which were designed finally to replace the latter. These higher schemes provided for entry of University Graduates and professionally qualified candidates after interview by the Public



Chinese scroll painting by Mr. Chen Chong Swee.



C. A. Gibson-Hill
The Secretariat Building from across the Singapore River, the Marine Police Station is on the right.

Services Commission and of non-graduate candidates after taking a competitive examination followed by an interview by the Public Services Commission. The schemes also provided for a Permanent Examinations Board to conduct the competitive examinations, and a Working Committee was formed to decide the syllabus for these competitive examinations. In order that recruitment to the Higher Services would not be delayed pending the appointment of the Public Services Commission and the Permanent Examinations Board, the Higher Schemes of Service contained regulations for the interim appointment to these Services of suitable candidates without examination. 316 applications under the scheme were received and 11 appointments were made upon the recommendation of the Commission Designate as follows:—

Administrative Service Part I	..	..	..	1
Administrative Service Part II	..	..	..	5
Immigration Service Part I	..	..	..	1
Income Tax Service Part I	..	..	..	1
Labour Service Part I	..	..	..	1
Social Welfare Service Part I	..	..	..	2

The figures for appointments are, however, somewhat misleading as many of the applications were still under consideration at the end of the year, while the Commission Designate advised that sixty-three applicants for Part I of the Administrative, Accounting and Income Tax Services should sit for the competitive examination before their applications were considered.

Six housemen of local domicile were appointed Medical Officers and nine nurses were promoted to the rank of Nursing Sister. The Secretary of State approved the appointment of four locally domiciled officers to the Colonial Police Service and two to the Colonial Education Service.

In pursuance of the declared policy of assisting local candidates to achieve the necessary standards for appointment to the Higher Schemes of Service, the opportunities for study courses both at the University of Malaya and overseas were increased. Departmental scholarship awards to the University of Malaya and Universities in the United Kingdom totalled fourteen and ten respectively in 1950 and covered a very wide field of studies and departments. Other awards were six Colonial Development and Welfare fund scholarships.

two Queen's Scholarships, a United Nations Scholarship for study in Public Administration and a U.N.E.S.C.O. Fellowship offered by the Government of New Zealand. Fourteen officers were selected to undergo Departmental Training Courses in the United Kingdom. In addition thirty other scholarships and training courses were approved but awards were not made during the year owing either to staffing difficulties or the lack of suitable candidates.

XVIII

Weights and Measures

THE STANDARD measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

standard of length, the imperial yard;
standard of weight, the imperial pound;
standard of capacity, the imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes Chinese steel-yards (called *daching*) of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The following are the principal local measures used with their English equivalents:—

the <i>chupak</i>	..	..	.. equals 1 quart;
the <i>gantang</i>	..	..	.. 1 gallon;
the <i>tahil</i>	..	..	.. 1½ oz.;
the <i>kati</i> (16 <i>tahils</i>)	..	..	.. 1½ lb.;
the <i>pikul</i> (100 <i>katis</i>)	..	..	.. 133½ lb.;
the <i>koyan</i> (40 <i>pikuls</i>)	..	..	.. 5,333½ lb.

XIX

Newspapers and Periodicals in 1950

THE FOLLOWING agencies operated in Singapore: Reuters, United Press of America, Associated Press of America and Antara News Agency.

The following daily papers were published in Singapore:—

English language:

Morning—*Straits Times*, *Singapore Standard* and *India Daily Mail*.

Afternoon—*Singapore Free Press* and *Malaya Tribune*.

Chinese language:

Morning—*Nanyang Siang Pau*, *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, and *Chur Shing Jit Pao*.

Afternoon—*Nanyang Evening Post*.

Malay language:

Morning—*Utusan Melayu*.

Tamil language:

Afternoon—*Tamil Murasu*.

Evening—*Malaya Nanban*.

Malayalam language:

Morning—*Kerala Bandhu* and *Videsha Malayali*

The following Sunday papers were published:—

English language:

Sunday Times, *Sunday Standard* and *Sunday Tribune*.

Chinese language:

Chung Shing Jit Pao, *Nanyang Siang Pau*, and *Sin Chew Jit Poh*.

Malay language:

Utusan Zaman.

The following periodicals were published:—

English language:

Weekly—*Straits Budget* and *Radio Weekly*.

Fortnightly—*Brown's Economic Review*.

Chinese language:

Bi-weekly—*The Amusements*, *Yeh Teng Weekly*, *Sin Jit Pao* and *Nanyang Radio Weekly*.

Fortnightly—*Rediffusion Times*, *Young Malaysians*.

Monthly—*Screen Voice*, *Arts Comprehension*.

Malay language:

Monthly—*Moestika*, *Qulam*, *Mutiara*, *Hiboran*.

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- Report of Sir Samuel Wilson's Visit to Malaya, 1932.* A report on proposals leading to decentralisation of public services in the Federated Malay States.
- Malaysia: a Study in Direct and Indirect Rule* by Rupert Emerson, 1937. A comparative study of administration in British and Dutch territories in South-East Asia by an American author.
- How Malaya is Governed* by S. M. Middlebrook and A. W. Pinnick, 1940. A short description of local administration in Malaya intended for use in secondary schools.
- Report of Singapore Housing Committee, 1947.* An illustrated commentary on housing accommodation in Singapore in 1947, with recommendations for the formation of satellite towns and other means to improve housing conditions.
- A Social Survey of Singapore, 1947* compiled by the Secretary for Social Welfare, Singapore. A preliminary study of some aspects of social conditions in the Municipal area of Singapore.
- Labour and Trade Union Organisation in the Federation of Malaya and Singapore* by S. S. Awbery and F. W. Dalley, 1948. The report of an enquiry made early in 1948 into the situation of labour and the trade unions in Malaya.
- Singapore: A Police Background* by Rene Onraet. An account of the work and problems of the Police Force in Singapore by a former Inspector-General of Police, including chapters on secret societies, the Japanese espionage in pre-war years and the early activities of the Chinese communists.
- Report of the Singapore Prison Enquiry Commission, 1948.* A very full and detailed report with recommendations on the system of Prison Administration and related matters, in Singapore.
- British Rule in South-East Asia* by Lennox Miles.
- The Report on the Census of Malaya, 1947.*

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ECONOMIC PRODUCTS

- A Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula* (2 vols.) by I. H. Burkill, 1935. A comprehensive account of the subject by an author who is himself a botanist. Accounts of vegetable products occupy the greater part of the book but mineral and animal resources are adequately treated.
- The Malayan Agricultural Journal.* A quarterly journal issued by the Department of Agriculture, Kuala Lumpur, first published in 1891 as the *Agricultural Bulletin*. Included papers deal with all aspects of Malayan agriculture, food and other crops (including rubber) and animal husbandry.
- Malayan Fishes* by C. N. Maxwell, 1921. A useful account of fish and fisheries in Malaya, written from the point of view of a Malay scholar rather than of an ichthyologist.
- An Outline of Malayan Agriculture* by D. H. Grist, 1936. A comprehensive description of Malayan agriculture with parts devoted to conditions, practice, major, secondary and minor crops and animal husbandry, including fresh water fish cultivation, compiled by an agricultural economist.
- Cavalcade of Rubber* by M. J. Kennaway, 1936. A brief historical sketch of the rubber industry in Malaya from its experimental introduction in 1876 to the early days of post-depression recovery.
- Malay Fishermen* by Raymond Firth, 1946. A detailed account of fishing economics and methods based on a study of the coastal Malays of Kelantan and Trengganu. A survey of fisheries in Malaya and Indonesia is given in the first chapter.
- Rice Economy of Monsoon Asia* by V. D. Wickizer and M. K. Bennett, 1946. A comprehensive monograph of the subject covering tropical continental Asia from India to Manchuria, Malaya, Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan.
- Malayan Fisheries, 1949.* A handbook prepared for the inaugural meeting of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council held in Singapore in March 1949. Edited by G. L. Kesteven, D.Sc. An up-to-date summary of the subject including sections on the marine faunas, fishing methods and economics and types of boats used, illustrated by a fine series of photographs by Dr. C. A. Gibson-Hill.

ANTHROPOLOGY

The Malays: A Cultural History by Sir Richard Winstedt, 1947. A detailed account of the origins, history, beliefs, traditions and customs of the Peninsular Malays written by the most eminent living authority on this subject.

Peoples of Malaysia by F. Cooper-Cole, 1945. A popular anthropological work intended primarily for the American forces in the Pacific. The term Malaysia is used in a less restricted sense than usual.

Report on Social Science Research in Malaya by Raymond Firth, 1948. This report embodies the results of the author's examination of social conditions in Malaya and the prospects and need of social science research there. It recommends *inter alia* a study of the economically depressed coastal Malays of Singapore Island and the island life of the Malays at Pulau Tekong, Pulau Ubin and Pulau Sudu.

The Modern Malay by L. P. Wheeler.

BOTANY, GEOLOGY AND WILD LIFE

The Geology of Malaya by J. B. Scrivenor, 1931. A well illustrated account of Malayan geology, both economic and academic. The author was the senior Government geologist from 1903 to 1931.

The Flora of the Malay Peninsula (5 vols.) by H. N. Ridley, 1925. Contains brief botanical descriptions of all species of higher plants (about 6,000) known to occur in the Malay Peninsula (south of latitude 7°) up to 1925; now considerably out of date and in need of revision.

Report of the Wild Life Commission of Malaya (3 vols.), 1932. A general survey, mainly devoted to evidence derived from a questionnaire occupies the first volume. Volume II deals with recommendations for wild life preservation and Volume III with legislation.

Wayside Trees of Malaya by E. J. H. Corner, 1940.

The Gardens' Bulletin, Singapore. Published by the Botanic Gardens, Singapore at irregular intervals. Contains technical papers on Malayan Botany.

Malayan Nature Journal. Published quarterly by the Malayan Nature Society. Contains illustrated articles on the Wild Life and Flora of Malaya.

Malayan Orchid Review. Published yearly by the Malayan Orchid Society. Contains illustrated articles on all aspects of orchid culture in Malaya.

Malayan Garden Plants. A series of booklets, issued by the Botanic Gardens Singapore, each containing line drawings and descriptions of ten plants of horticultural interest. Nos. 1-3 have now been published.

Report on the Availability of Granite in Singapore and the Surrounding Island by Dr. (Mrs.) F. E. S. Alexander, 1950.

BIOGRAPHY

Raffles of Singapore by R. Coupland, 1946. A short biography of the founder of Singapore.

The Life of Sir Stamford Raffles by Demetrius C. Boulger, 1897. This biography contains the most complete account of Raffles' political career, based on records in the India Office.

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, Founder of Singapore, 1819; and Some of His Friends and Contemporaries by J. A. Bethune Cook, 1918. A short, anecdotal biography, written by an English missionary

EDUCATION

Report of Higher Education in Malaya by Sir William McLean and H. J. Channon, 1939. The report of a Commission which visited Malaya in 1938. The amalgamation of Raffles College and the King Edward VII College of Medicine to form a University College is the most important recommendation made.

Report on University Education in Malaya by Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, 1948. The report of an Education Commission which visited Malaya in 1947 and recommended the replacement of the present institutions for higher education by a Malayan University.

A Short History of the Educational Policy of the Straits Settlements, 1800-1925 (Circa), 1948 by D. D. Chelliah. Starting with the ideas Sir Stamford Raffles had in mind when he founded the Singapore Institution this history traces educational policy in Singapore, Malacca and Penang up to 1925 and in some sections beyond this date, but not later than 1939.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Handbook to British Malaya by R. L. German, 1935. A concise account of the physical features, history, administration and economics of the country, illustrated with photographs.

Malaya: The Straits Settlements, the Federated and Unfederated Malay States by Sir Richard Winstedt, 1923. A description of Malaya with chapters on physical features, native races, history, fauna, flora, administration and economic products. Well illustrated with photographs.

Malaya: Outline of a Colony by Victor Purcell, 1946. A short description of Malaya for general reading ending with an account of the impact of war on the country.

The Lights of Singapore by Roland St. J. Braddell, 1934. A readable and reminiscential book about Singapore and Malaya by a member of a family which has lived in the Colony for three generations.

Guide to Singapore and Malaya compiled by A. C. Willis, 1940. A tourists' guide book of pre-war Singapore, illustrated with photographs.

The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Malayan Branch. A journal issued from the Society's rooms at Raffles Museum three or four times a year. The objects of the Society are the increase and diffusion of knowledge concerning Singapore, Malaya, and the British colonies and the State of Brunei in Borneo, membership being by subscription of \$10 per year. Initiated in 1878 as the Straits Branch, Royal Asiatic Society the present name of the Society was adopted in 1923.

The Bulletin of the Raffles Museum. A bulletin published by Raffles Museum at irregular intervals, containing papers of scientific, historical and general interest.

HISTORY

One Hundred Years of Singapore (2 vols.) by W. Makepeace, G. E. Brooke and R. St. J. Braddell (general editors), 1921. An account of the social and economic progress of Singapore from its foundation in 1819 to 1919. Contributors include well-known old residents of the city.

One Hundred Years History of the Chinese in Singapore by Sir Ong Siang Song, 1923. A chronological record of the contribution of the Chinese community to the development, progress and prosperity of Singapore from 1819 to 1919.

A History of Malaya by Sir Richard Winstedt, 1935. The most complete account that has been written of the history of the country from prehistoric times to the early 1930's.

British Malaya, 1824-67 by L. A. Mills, 1925. An account of the early history of British colonisation in Malaya; events previous to the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824 are summarised in the first three chapters.

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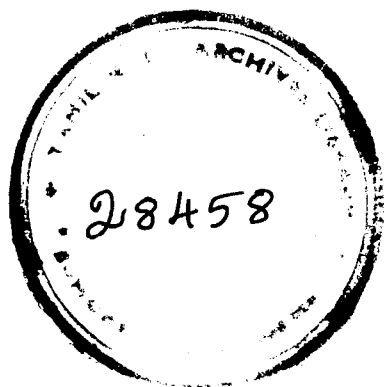
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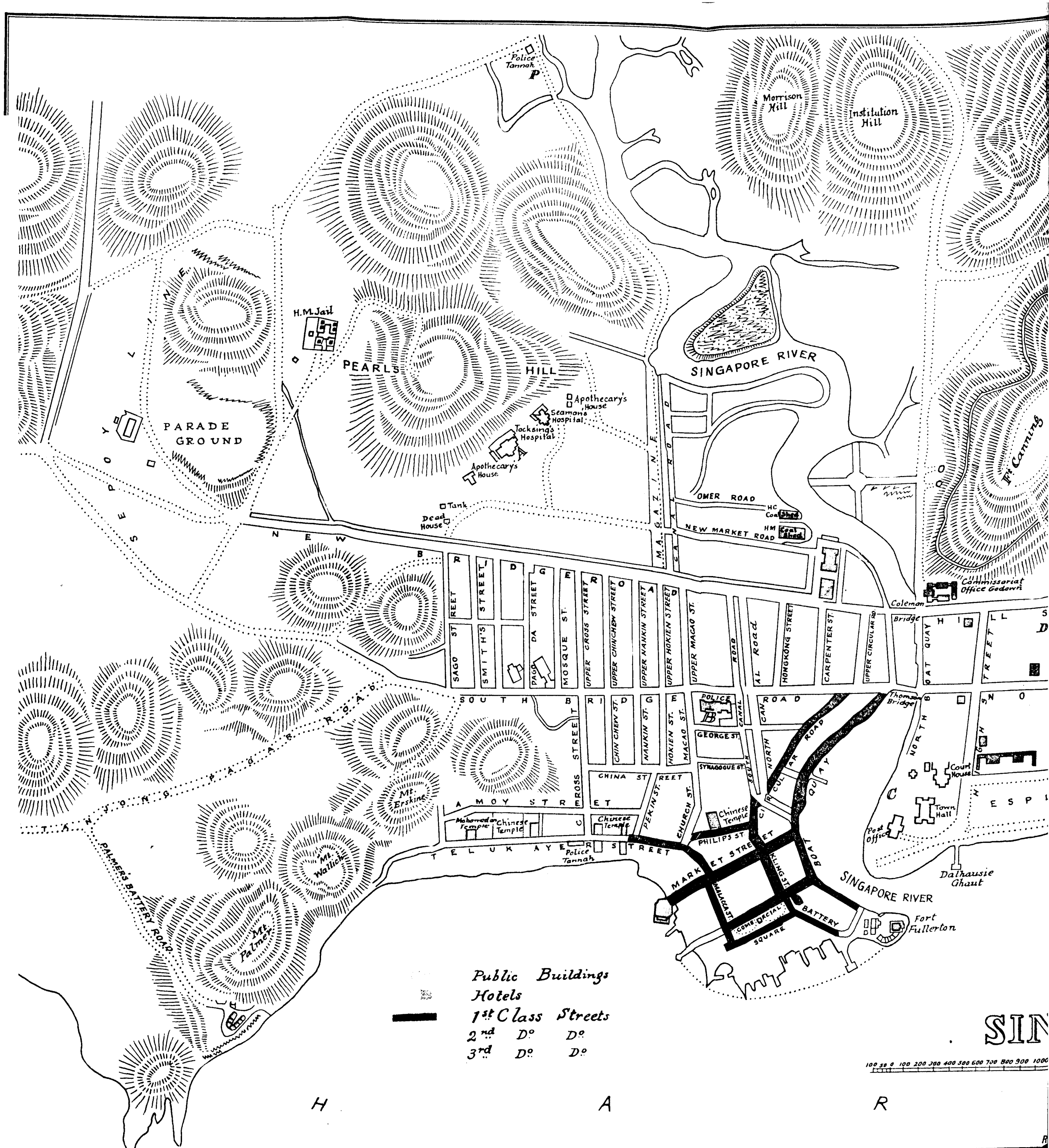
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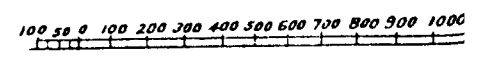
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