GUYANA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE INTERIOR

FOR THE YEAR

1965

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA, GUYANA

1968

C.G.P. & S. 1895/68.

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G E N E R A L

ORGANISATION

The Department of the Interior is a Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs and is responsible under the Commissioner of the Interior, for administrative control of three Administrative Districts, viz:-

the Mazaruni-Potaro District with an area of 21,555 sq.mls. and a population of approximately 13,400

the Rupununi District with an area of 37,380 sq.mls. and a population of approximately 11,400

the North West District with an area of 8,507 sq.mls. and a population of approximately 14,600.

The Department is also responsible for Amerindian Affairs throughout the country. A District Commissioner is in charge of each District. Owing to the difficulties of communication with the respective headquarters of the Districts at Bartica and Mabaruma, the Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District and the North West Amerindian District, each with an Assistant District Commissioner in charge, are largely controlled from Head Office. A District Officer of the Department is in charge of the Orealla Amerindian District in the Coastal area, and has responsibility with respect to Amerindian Settlements in the Berbice River.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A Parliamentary Secretary for Amerindian Affairs assists the Minister of Home Affairs in the discharge of the responsibilities assigned to him for Amerindian Affairs and the Department of the Interior.

STAFF

The establishment comprises of Interior, Mr. E.M. Cossou, three District Commissioners, eight Assistant District Commissioners, eight Field Officers, twleve clerks, one clerical assistant and three office assistants with various subordinate posts. The number of Assistant District Commissioner posts was increased from five to eight in 1965 to provide for the take over of the Mining Stations at Orinduik, Enachu and Mahdia. Only one of the posts was filled during the year and the station at Orinduik taken over. The other two stations will be taken over as soon as officers are available for the posts and have received special training of about three months. As it was found necessary to raise the status of the post at Orealla one of the new posts of Assistant District Commissioner was diverted to Orealla and an additional Assistant District Commissioner is now required. The proposal to place a District Field Officer in charge of one of the Mining Stations is not satisfactory as all Stations merit an officer of the status of an Assistant District Commissioner.

The difficulty of attracting suitable staff for district work in the Interior continued to cause concern and at the end of the year consideration was being given to proposals for better conditions of service and a change in the staff structure. In October one of the three District Commissioners was seconded to Head Office to give assistance to the Commissioner of Interior with emphasis on the Department's Development Programme.

The appreciation by the Commissioner of the Interior, of the whole hearted co-operation given to him by the staff is recorded.

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

Population: The estimated population of Amerindians at the end of 1965 was slightly more than 30,000.

Agriculture: Except at the Kumaka/Quebanna Land Settlement Scheme reported on separately, there was little improvement in the promotion of better farming in agricultural areas, the main drawback being the shortage of Agricultural Extension Officers. The future is somewhat brighter with the proposed provision of two Canadian Agricultural Extension Officers and the Extenstion Officer provided by grant aid from the Oxford Committee of Famine Relief.

Education: A secondary school was started at Mabaruma in the North West District. Like the secondary school at Bartica it lacks proper accommodation. The establishment of a Secondary school at St. Ignatius, Rupununi was deferred until 1966. There was some improvement in the standard of teachers in the Interior but the lack of proper accommodation continues to deter qualified teachers from taking up appointments there. The Education Officer for the Interior resides at Mabaruma and finds it difficult to visit all schools in the Interior. There is need for an additional officer stationed in the Rupununi.

Health: There were no noteworthy outbreaks of disease in the Interior during the year and there was cause for satisfaction in the control of malaria as a result of which the issue of medicated salt was discontinued. The incidence of tuberculosis still continues to cause much concern and we were fortunate to receive a grant from "OXFAM" to obtain X-Ray equipment for the Mabaruma Hospital. Similar equipment is needed for the Lethem Hospital.

The completion of the extension to the Lethem Hospital was deferred until 1966. It was not found possible to reinstate the arrangement whereby a doctor visited the settlements in the Pakaraimas, nor to obtain a visiting doctor for the North West Amerindian District.

The dispenser service generally suffered from lack of serviceable transportation equipment.

Local Government: The process of defining boundaries for the declaration of Amerindian Villages was deferred pending the work of the Amerindian Lands Commission and the settlement of Amerindian Land Tenure.

As a result of departmental staff shortages it was not possible to hold elections in the villages to ascertain the wishes of the people as to appointments to the posts of Captains (Touchaus) and where necessary village councillors. For this reason, and in view of the many matters affecting Amerindians, it was expected would arise in the 1966/67 period, it was considered advisable to extend the term of office of all village Captains (Touchaus) to 31st December, 1967.

Economy of Amerindians: After the distrubances of preceding years there was a welcome return by industry to a normal level. Logging improved as there was once again a demand for timber. Balata production was maintained, and in the Rupununi more Amerindian cattle was sold largely due to a new competitor for purchases, two American Ranchers who are to establish a canned meat industry. There is still however no planned programme of development for the Amerindian cattle industry in the Rupununi. In the Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District there was some recovery of diamonds by the Amerindians.

Development

Report by Mr. S.C. Knapp: By arrangement with the Canadian Government, Mr. S.C. Knapp, a Canadian Indian Affairs Officer with wide experience visited Guyana to advise on ways to develop the resources of the Amerindians and to improve their standard of living. Mr. Knapp travelling extensively in Amerindian areas and submitted a report with suggestions for a development programme.

External Aid: As a result of Mr. Knapp's report the Canadian Government agreed to assist Amerindian Development in various ways. They included the provision of two Agricultural Advisers for one to two years, an Adviser for short courses in Community Development, an Adviser for Community Development at the land settlement scheme in the North West District, two well drilling rigs, two trucks and other equipment, and the services of an operator for a training period. One of the Agricultural Officers arrived in the Country late in the year.

Also as a result of a visit, late in 1964 by Mr. T.F. Betts, a Field Director of the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, assistance for Amerindian Development was obtained from that body which included; the employment of an Agricultural Extension Officer for three years, X-Ray Equipment for the Mabaruma Hospital, and a vehicle for use by the doctor in the Rupununi. Mr. Cundiff, the Agricultural Officer, assumed duty in September.

Land Tenure: At the Independence Conference in London late in 1965, it was agreed that Government would grant Amerindians legal ownership or rights of occupancy over areas and reservations or parts thereof where any tribe or community of Amerindian is now ordinarly resident or settled and other legal rights. An Amerindian Lands Commission is to be established to advise Government as to how this should be done.

Kumaka/Quebanna Land Settlement Scheme: Fair progress was made in the scheme and at the end of the year there were about 250 families working and receiving food aid. The Agricultural Extension Officer, provided by OXFAM, is now stationed in the area and accelerated progress can be expected. The transition to permanent occupancy of the lots is still gradual; but this should improve when it is possible to provide a potable water supply service.

Amerindian Purposes Fund: At 31st December, 1965, the Fund stood at $34,621.18 (unaudited). Income is obtained from interest on investments and profits from Trade Stores.

Expenditure in 1965 was as follows:-

Expenses - returning destitute Amerindians to villages	$563.20
Expenses - feeding to destitute Amerindians	1,300.05
Advances	40.00
Miscellaneous	74.97
	$1,978.22

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Aid to Churches: An amount of $25,250.00 was paid to Churches to assist in providing services for Amerindians as follows:-

Anglican	$11,000.00
Roman Catholic	11,000.00
Guyana Congregational Union	1,000.00
Christian Social Council	600.00
Seventh Day Adventist	600.00
Methodist	400.00
Pilgrim Holiness	400.00
Unevangelised Field Mission	250.00
	$25,250.00

RUPUNUNI DISTRICT

The administrative headquarters of the district is situated at Lethem in the North Savannahs and is under the charge of a District Commissioner. District Field Officers are stationed at Annia, Karasabai and Aishalton. Due to staff shortage the post at Annai was vacant for most of the year.

STAFF

Mr. F.B. Green, Assistant District Commissioner, acted as District Commissioner until March and was replaced by Mr. C. McA. Ashley who, in turn, was replaced in October by Mr. C.J.E. Barker. The post of Assistant District Commissioner was vacant January to March, when Mr. A.M. Owen, Class 1 Clerk, was appointed to act.

ADMINISTRATION

The District Commissioner made several tours of the District. His mobility was considerably assisted by the provision in August of a new Land Rover. A meeting of District Field Officers was held at Lethem in December, followed by a meeting of district representatives of other Ministries.

The Mining Station at Orinduik was taken over from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines with effect from 1st January, 1965, and Mr. L. Jekir, who had spent three months familiarising himself with the work of the station, formally assumed duty there as Mines Officer; and was in September appointed to act as an Assistant District Commissioner. It will now be possible for more attention to be given to the general administration of the North Pakaraimas.

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

Local Government: The Village Councils continued to function in their limited capacities. The development of local government is hampered by the prolonged absence of councillors employed outside the village, for example, in the balata industry. Also District Field Officers, who have much to do with this development, require specialised training.

Trade Stores: The Lethem Trade Store and its two branches at Aishalton and Karasabai were operated under the control of the District Commissioner. Difficulty was experienced in keeping the books and accounts properly written up and no firm figures of sales are as yet available. A book-keeper was specially employed to put the books in order and at the end of the year his work was not completed.

Village Shops: The shops at Annai and Sand Creek continue to progress. Several other villages are keenly interested in opening shops. Certain essential factors are however necessary before the Department's backing can be obtained.

Produce and Trade: The Trade Stores and to some extent the Village Shops purchase produce for sale. At Lethem $1,047.00 worth of produce was purchased. Difficulty was experienced in marketing large quantities of corn and farine purchased by the Aishalton Trade Store and it was not found possible to dispose of much of the tobacco crop purchased at Karasabai, as there was no market in Georgetown. The marketing of corn and other produce within the District would be relatively easier if the problem of transportation solved.

Amerindian bleeders again accounted for most of the balata produced in the district. Their estimated production was 507,422 lbs. as compared with 472,268 lbs. in 1964.

Amerindian cattle shipments showed a reducation in 1965, probably due to the local sales to the American Ranchers. Comparative figures for cattle sales effected through the Department were:-

	1963	1964	1965
Cattle	$31,841	$40,000	$34,640

Development Programme: Work on the various development projects was again very restricted. Very little can be done mid year during the rainy season and the late allocations of funds only provide a working period of three months, October to December. Frequent transfers of senior staff, lack of equipment and technical direction also had an adverse effect on the programme.

Roads: No work was carried out on the Good Hope/Karasabai Road Project. In the South Savannahs improvement works were continued and some local materials obtained for bridging the Rupununi River.

Water Supply: Repairs to existing shallow wells were undertaken.

Training: Two courses in brick making were held.

Visits: His Excellency the Governor and Lady Luyt visited the District in March. In January the Commissioner for Canada, Mr. M. Gregg, V.C., P.C., C.B.E., M.C. and Mr. S.K. Knapp, Canadian Adviser on Amerindian Affairs toured the District. Other important visitors included the Governor of the Federal Territory of Rio Branco.

Frontier Relations: Relations between the Rupununi District and the Federal Territory of Rio Branco were maintained at a cordial level, and there was considerable freedom of movement and trade between the two areas. During August a group of Brazilian Officials led by the Deputy Governor of the Territory visited Lethem and discussed with the District Commissioner ways and means of preventing smuggling across the border. There was special concern at the large quantity of whisky entering Brazil from Lethem. In September the District Commissioner travelled to Boa Vista to witness the Brazilian Independen Day Anniversary Celebrations.

AGRICULTURE

St. Ignatius Livestock Station: Dr. P.F. Byrne, Veterinary Officer was in charge of the station throughout the year. The Agricultural Field Assistant was transferred in October and had not been replaced by the end of the year.

The station duties of the Veterinary Officer with his special responsibility for meat shipments once again severely restricted his mobility and no special attention could be given to Amerindian cattle development. Extension work was again nominal as the district is far too large for one Extension Officer. His transfer and non replacement brought extension work to a full stop.

Revolving Heifer Scheme for Amerindian Villages: The future of this Scheme was in the balance at the end of the year. Unsatisfactory reports were submitted by the Veterinary Officer and Mr. J. Dummett, of the Ministry of Agriculture, toured the District to make a full examination of the progress of the scheme. A decision with regard to the future of the scheme is awaited. In the meantime, some heifers were returned to the Livestock Station in accordance with the provisions of the scheme.

Marketing of Cattle: Cattle for shipment out of the district is normally marketed through Meat Marketing Limited, an organisation with special arrangements with ranchers, and with the District Commissioner on behalf of the Amerindians. In the latter part of the year two American Ranchers, Messrs. J. Dickie and C. Myers established a competitive market for the purchase of cattle. It is understood that a "Boneless Meat" industry is to be established and that they have the support of the Ministry of Agriculture. The lack of firm arrangements somewhat embarrassed the District Commissioner as an adviser to an agent of the Amerindian cattle owners. It should be noted that Messrs. Dickie and Myers paid good prices for their purchases.

HEALTH

The Medical services in the Rupununi district include a hospital and a dispensary at Lethem and four travelling Medical Rangers, one of whom is stationed in the Northern Pakaraimas and the others at Lethem, Sand Creek and Karasabai. Dr. C. Davis of the Unevangelised Field Mission by arrangement with Government assists at the hospital and Dr. J.T. Talbot the Doctor for Interior areas spent most of his time in the district.

Lethem Hospital: The hospital which provides limited facilities is always very overcrowded. Work on an extension of the building, begun in 1964, was suspended in March from lack of funds. There were 428 births and 67 deaths recorded at Lethem.

Transportation: Once again only one land rover was available for use by the Doctor and the Dispenser and for general ambulance service. Much of the time it was out of order.

Visitors: Dr. Choudhury, Tuberculosis Medical Officer and Mr. Zainool of the Central Laboratory toured all parts of the district in November.

Malaria Eradication Programme: The programme was continued during the year. The free distribution of medicated salt was maintained.

POLICE, PRISONS AND MAGISTERIAL

Police: Police stations were maintained at Lethem (Inspector, Corporal and six constables) Annai (Corporal and three constables) Good Hope (two constables) and Orinduik (Corporal and three constables). There were few serious crimes and three only in the mining areas of the North Pakaraimas.

Prisons: A prison was maintained at Lethem. A total of 6 prisoners served sentences during the year. There was urgent need for a proper lock up at Orinduik.

Magisterial: Monthly courts were held at Lethem. There were two courts each at Orinduik and Annai. Ninety-three criminal and three civil cases were heard.

Public Works: General maintenance of buildings and of the roads in the north and south savannahs was carried out. Three bridges were rebuilt and two reconditioned. Of the seven lorries in the district, one was permanently unserviceable and two were temporarily unserviceable throughout the year. The D4 and D6 Caterpillar tractors were overhauled. Both Ferguson Tractors were laid up throughout the year, awaiting parts for repair.

MISSIONS AND EDUCATION

Missions: There was no change in the activities of the established Missions.

Education: There were 26 grant aided schools in the district. The main problems in respect of education remained the lack of qualified teachers, the lack of sufficient consciousness amongst the people of the value of education and the reorientation of the curriculum to suit local conditions. Until better housing accommodation is provided the teaching situation will not be appreciably improved.

Secondary Education: Once again no action was taken with respect to the establishment of a secondary school at St. Ignatius with which is allied the use of the Hostel building and Government bursaries to promising pupils from other schools.

Education Officer: The Education Officer, Interior who is stationed in the North West District paid at least one visit to the different sections of the District. It is obvious that he cannot give sufficient attention to the Rupununi.

Home Economics and Handicraft: Classes began at Sand Creek School under a teacher specially recruited for the purpose. Handicraft classes at Shea and Sand Creek were maintained.

DEVELOPMENT

Aided Self-Help Schemes: The erection of a new school at Aranaputa Valley was still in progress at the end of the year. At St. Ignatius the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics began work to complete the erection of the school building started two years ago as a self-help scheme.

Water Supply - Lethem: During May a serious epidemic of gastro-enteritis occurred at Lethem. The Deputy Chief Medical Officer visited and condemned as contaminated the well serving the Government Compound. He recommended an alternative site for the well. At the end of the year no action had been taken to provide a new well and the Tabatinga Creek was being used.

POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Postal: Postal services were maintained at Lethem (Post Office) Lumid Pau, Aishalton, Dadanawa, Yupukari, Annai, Good Hope and Orinduik (Postal Agencies).

Telecommunications: A Government service was maintained at Lethem with radio-phones at the District Field Officers Stations at Annai, Karasabai and Aishalton. These sets were however often unserviceable. It was not found possible to provide certain of the larger villages with radiophone sets as proposed.

Civil Aviation: Normal maintenance was carried out of Dakota airstrips. Good Hope airstrip was extended.

A large airstrip was completed at the end of the year at Bon Fim near Lethem on the other side of the border. The Director of Civil Aviation held discussions with the Brazilian authorities on the subject of air traffic at both airstrips.

The airstrip at Monkey Mountain is still restricted to cargo only. Discharged patients returning from the Best Hospital still have to walk from Cato to Monkey Mountain, an arduous journey under the best of conditions.

NORTH PAKARAIMAS

STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

The appointment of an Interior Officer as Mines Officer with the substantive status of an Assistant District Commissioner was the first step towards effective administration of this large mountainous section of the Rupununi. The next step will be the building up of a Government station and provision is made in the Development Programme for the removal of the present station at Orinduik to a more central position. The present choice is in the vicinity of Cato.

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

The two new Amerindian settlements on the Ireng, Itapac and Kanapang continue to develop and the schools are seeking Government grants in aid.

AGRICULTURE

Tobacco and tomatoes were grown at Itapac and Monkey Mountain. No visits were made to the District by an Agricultural Officer.

HEALTH

A total of 1982 cases were treated by the only Medical Ranger in the area. An additional ranger is urgently needed as the area is too large for one ranger travelling as he does mostly on foot.

EDUCATION

Of the nine schools in the area only the Paramakatoi Pilgrim Holiness and the Kurukabaru R.C. Schools offer the full curriculum to Form II.

The Monkey Mountain aided self-help school building was officially declared open by the Minister of Education in July. At Waipa construction of a new school building has been started.

POLICE, PRISONS AND MAGISTERIAL

Police: There is urgent need for a lock up at Orinduik.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

The Assistant District Commissioner performs the duties of Customs and Excise Officer. Articles valued at $6,758.93 were transported to Brazil from the Orinduik port.

PUBLIC WORKS

Trails: Trails cleaned were Kamana - Sarawaparu - Maikwak, Kopinang - Waipa and Kaibarupai - Kanopai.

Buildings: The Medical Ranger's quarters and the three Rest Shelters in the area have not as yet been taken over by the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics. They are all in need of repair and the Rest House at Kopinang will probably have to be rebuilt.

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Postal agencies are operated at Orinduik and Cato. There is need for agencies at Monkey Mountain and Kurukabaru.

Orinduik is the only main station without radiophone facilities and it is expected that a transreceiving set will be established by the Police at an early date.

MINING

The main economic activity of the area continues to be mining with centres at Sukabi, Maikwak, Uribaru and Monkey Mountain. There was increased activity at Monkey Mountain.

The miners and settlers of the Kopinang/Maikwak area have formed a committee for the development of the area.

A total of 19,319 stones (diamonds) weighing 3668 13/16 carats passed through the office at Orinduik.

MAZARUNI-POTARO DISTRICT

The administrative Headquartersof the District is sited at Bartica, a well laid out village, the importance of which as a centre of mining activity has declined in recent years with the advent of air transportation. At Bartica and the near riverain areas of the Essequibo and Lower Mazaruni there are some 6,000 persons with logging and sawmilling the main industries.

In the Potaro area, over a hundred miles away where gold mining was once the chief activity, are some 1,000 persons engaged in the recovery of diamonds with Mahdia, a small entrepot and Government station, the main centre.

The other main mining area is in the Mazaruni River between Issano and Apaiqua where some 2,000 persons largely itinerant are also engaged in the recovery of diamonds. Kurupung Landing is the largest centre and the Government Station is at Enachu.

In the Cuyuni River, the remaining great watercourse traversing the district, the population is scant and scattered and there are probably as many Venezuelans as Guyanese seeking diamonds, where the river is a common boundary.

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Mr. C.J.E. Barker continued as District Commissioner until the 15th July. Mr. F.M. Cumberbatch, an Administrative Assistant acted until the 11th September and Mr. M.L. Persaud, Assistant District Commissioner acted from the 21st October. The supporting staff included an Assistant District Commissioner, a Class 1 Clerk and a Class 11 Clerk.

Other District Representative Officers at Bartica included a Resident Surgeon, two Assistant Conservators of Forests (one to March), an Inspector of Police, a Transport Officer, an Agricultural Field Superintendent and a Lands Officer (to August), The Mazaruni Prison was in charge of a Senior Superintendent of Prisons and a Mechanical Engineer of the Transport and Harbours Department Dry Docks. A Crown Lands Officer was to replace the Land Officer, who was transferred, but no action had been taken by the end of the year. The post of District Geologist (Bartica) remained vacant throughout the year.

In the outlying areas a Maintenance Superintendent, in charge of the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics operations in the District, was stationed at 72 miles, Potaro, and Mines Officers at Enachu and Mahdia. The post at Mahdia was vacant from August.

Visits: His Excellency the Governor and Lady Luyt visited Winepuru and Bartica in July. Other notable visitors included the Minister of Home Affairs and His Permanent Secretary, the Minister of Works and Hydraulics, the General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department, and the Directors of Posts and Telecommunications, Prisons and Civil Aviation. Tumatumari was visited by the Planning Team headed by Sir Arthur Lewis in connection with the Development Programme.

Frontier Relations: In spite of the Venezuelan claim to British Guiana's territory, relations between Guyanese and Venezuelans on the frontier remained cordial. The Venezuelans maintain a border outpost at La Boca, at the confluence of the Wenamu and Cuyuni Rivers. No incidents were reported and there was the usual influx of Venezuelans in the Cuyuni to engage in diamond diving operations. Border trade with Venezuela continues to flourish with the purchase of fuel, the chief commodity.

The District Commissioner toured the frontier areas in April and November. In April the route taken was Kamarang, Ekereku, Eteringbang, La Boca, Cuyuni, Bartica. In November the Kaikan, Wenamu, Cuyuni areas were visited. In addition the Police and British Army carried out patrols.

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

Apart from the Kamarang reservation which is reported on separately, there are no large concentrations of Amerindians in the District. They live in scattered groups on river banks and on the islands of the Mazaruni and Cuyuni rivers. The more backward are to be found in the upper reaches of the Potaro and Cuyuni rivers, where communications are difficult and educational opportunities non-existent. They live the traditional life of fishing, hunting and subsistence farming and do not mix readily with other races.

The less backward in the vicinity of Bartica, Mahdia and the mining areas find occupation in the mining industry and are utilised in field expeditions by Geologists and Government Surveyors and as labourers by the Maintenance Superintendent, Works and Hydraulics.

AGRICULTURE

The main centres of agricultural activity are at Bartica and environs, the Mahdia valley and the Enachu area. In the mining areas of the Mazaruni some regular "Porknockers" plant subsistence crops but the demand always exceeds the supply.

The producation of ground provisions and green vegetables continues to increase and supplies were fairly good throughout the year. Interest in tobacco production was maintained on the Bartica-Potaro road but poor results were obtained due to unsuitable weather conditions. Peanuts and black-eye peas were grown successfully in the Mahdia Valley. The main drawback continues to be plant destruction by acoushi ants. There is need for more than one swing fog machine at the Agricultural Station at Bartica/Potaro Road.

In the Bartica area milk production was maintained and the pig and poultry rearers were able to provide a good supply of pork, eggs and broiler meat. There is still a shortage of beef production and supplies are obtained from the Essequibo coast and Islands.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Transport and Harbours Department maintained its thrice weekly steamer service between Georgetown and Bartica, and private launch services, catering for both passengers and cargo, were operated on the following rivers:-

Mazaruni	-	between Issano and Apaiqua
Potaro	-	between Kangaruma and Tukeit and between Kaieteur Top and Kopinang Mouth
Lower Cuyuni	-	between Bartica and Camaria
Upper Cuyuni	-	between Camaria and Wenamu

There were no serious accidents in these rivers during 1965. In December, however, a boat capsized in the Camaria Range, Cuyuni and a child was drowned.

The Transport and Harbours Department road services to Issano, Tumatumari, Kangaruma and Mahdia were maintained by a fleet of 10 lorries. Only seven were in service during the year. Mileage covered was 74,938 miles with 8,284 passengers and 916 tons of cargo. 'Pirate' lorry services continue to offer strong competition.

Guyana Airways Corporation operated a thrice weekly Grumman service to Bartica and a four times a week service to Tumereng with extensions to Two Mouth, Kurupung.

The cleaning of a site for an all purpose airstrip at Bartica was begun in December. The site is in the vicinity of 5 miles on the Bartica Potaro Road. The Transport and Harbours Stellings at Bartica and Issano were extended and reconditioned. A shed was erected over the Guyana Airways Ramp and a new Government Boat House was erected by Transport and Harbours Department as a result of the work at the Bartica stelling.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Customs and Excise duties are carried out by the staff of the District Commissioner's Office. The duties are mainly the issuing of petroleum products from the Bulk Station at Bartica, examining packages received at the Bartica Post Office, and dealing with excise matters. Petroleum products issued were:-

	Gasolene	Kerosene	Gas Oil
Duty Free	59,490 glns.	-	-
Duty Paid	58,545 glns.	70,278 glns.	117,990 glns.

EDUCATION

There are two all age schools in the District. The two largest at Bartica are over crowded and lack adequate staff. At Mahdia the problem of quarters for teachers still remains unsolved. At Tumatumari the school is still housed temporarily in an unsuitable private building. The school at the Mazaruni Prisons is very overcrowded and a new building should be an urgent priority. At Issano the new school still housed in the church building should be considered for a Government grant. At Chenapow on the Upper Potaro, a school and teacher's house were built by unaided self-help under the aegis of the Anglican Body. The school is not in operation and it is understood that the control may be handed over to the Catholic Body.

At Bartica there is a Secondary School housed unsatisfactorily in the Community Centre building. The staffing situation improved during 1965 and a room was constructed on the ground floor of the building to provide accommodation for a science laboratory.

The Education Officer, Interior who is stationed at Mabaruma, North West District paid regular visits to the district visiting all Schools. He held several seminars for teachers at Bartica.

FORESTS

The Essequibo Division of the Forest Department with headquarters at Bartica is responsible for the area on both banks of the Essequibo River from Parika, as well as the Mazaruni/Potaro area.

At the end of the year there were 32 Crown Forests Woodcutting Leases in force and 12 areas being worked pending issue of leases. Together they comprised an area of 1,699,935 acres.

There was an increase in the overall production of timber and as in previous years, activity was mainly concentrated on greenheart extraction. The operations of one sawmiller in the Potaro area, an area hitherto untapped, together with increased efficiency in the industry, contributed to the increase. A total of 3,924,987 cubic feet of timber of all classes, including 3,236,933 cubic feet of greenheart, was extracted as compared with 3,650,470 cubic feet and 2,966,942 cubic feet in 1964.

Silvicultural work was continued and an additional 3 acres of "pinus caribea" planted at the Bartica-Potaro Road.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

During 1965, Geological Survey field work was carried out at Aranka, Waiamu, Aremu and Wariri in the Cuyuni River, the Puruni River and the Eagle Mountain Area, Potaro.

At Aranka, a 4 hole drilling programme was completed over an area showing a recently deliniated soil copper anomaly, and the results were encouraging. For this operation a ten mile road was constructed extending north from the Cuyuni River to the drill site. This road was used by a tractor, numerous bridges were built, including one of 90 feet span.

At Aremu, geochemical surveys showed a soil copper anomaly associated with copper mineralisation in surface boulders.

At Waiamu, surveys encountered sub-grade manganese while at Wariri, soil sampling was undertaken in a known mineralised area and this outlined an area with soil nickel values associated with low soil copper values.

In the Puruni River, drilling was carried out at the old Peter's Mine and some small zinc intersections were encountered.

In the Eagle Mountain area an auger hole programme was instituted to check the reported occurrence of native copper.

MINING

Gold: Production of gold in the district remained at the same low level, the total amount being 1143 ounces, yielding a royalty of $580.84 as compared with 1127 ounces and a royalty of $555.81 in 1964.

Diamonds: Production in 1965 was 107,808.40 metric carats yielding a royalty of $54,164.83 as against 108,834.50 metric carats and a royalty of $53,128.25 in 1964. The main workings were again concentrated in the Two Mouth Section of the Kurupung area, Mazaruni River where 80,429.91 metric carats were produced. The Cuyuni yielded 10,806.92 and the Potaro 16,571.57 metric carats.

Quarrying: The main stone quarries are located in the Essequibo River below Wineperu, and in the lower Mazaruni and Cuyuni rivers. Government operates a stone crushing plant at Makouria. During the year as the demand exceeded the supply Government was forced to start quarrying at Makouria.

Firm security measures were taken for the distribution of explosives to quarries. An explosive magazine was reactivated at Makouria and all explosives for quarries stored there for distribution to quarries as required.

A daring robbery occurred in July when a quantity of detonators and explosives was stolen from a boat at St. Mary's quarry, Essequibo River.

HEALTH

Public Hospital: There is a Public Hospital at Bartica under the control of a Resident Surgeon. His duties include a bi-weekly visit to the Mazaruni Prison where a Dispenser is stationed. Births at the Hospital totalled 287 and deaths 48. There were 1,155 in-patients and 12,100 out-patients as compared with 195 births, 57 deaths, 1,156 in-patients and 11,680 out-patients in 1964. The Hospital has accommodation for 40 beds and only certain cases need be transferred to Georgetown for treatment.

Other Services: Apart from the Dispensaries at Bartica and the Mazaruni Prison, Government operated Dispensaries at Mahdia (Potaro) and Enachu (Mazaruni). Due to lack of road transport the dispenser at Mahdia was only able to make irregular visits to Tumatumari, 72 miles and Issano and the dispenser at Enachu was unable to regularly visit the Kurupung, Apaiqua and Eping areas as his launch was out of order for most of the year. At Wineperu B.G. Timbers Limited operated a dispensary.

LABOUR

Unemployment and under-employment continued to prevail in the District. The avenues of employment were confined to Government routine services, commerce in Bartica, timber grants and stone quarries. In the Interior the diamond industry attracted large numbered.

Apart from one strike at Toolsie Persaud's timber concession at Butukari, there were no serious labour troubles during the year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The only local authority in the District is the Bartica Village Council with a membership of twelve councillors. Rate collection was again poor being $20,856.82 or 64% current rates and $13,128.16 or 69% arrears rates. Once again the Village Overseer refused to take legal action against defaulting ratepayers and it was necessary for the Local Government Board to threaten his dismissal. As a result village expenditure was restricted to maintenance works.

MAGISTERIAL, POLICE AND PRISONS

Magisterial: There were monthly sittings at the Bartica Court under a visiting Magistrate.

The District Commissioner as Travelling Magistrate presided over Courts at other places in the District, Mahdia, Issano, Enachu, Kurupung Landing and Kamarang until October when these duties were handed over to a visiting Magistrate.

Police: At the beginning of the year, Police Stations were located at Bartica, Mahdia, Issano, Enachu and Kurupung Landing. In June the outpost at Apaiqua was re-established. In November an outpost was opened at Ekereku.

The Inspector stationed at Bartica is in charge of the district with 6 subordinate officers and 24 constables. Transportation improvements were maintained with the receipt of a new speed boat at Bartica.

Prisons: The Mazaruni Prison was administered by a Superintendent of Prisons and a staff of 77 officers. The daily average prison population was 312 and there was no disturbance of consequence. The Prison Farm continued to be an outstanding feature of the work of the prisoners.

POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

There were 14 Offices and Postal Agencies operating at various points in the District. Radiophone services were maintained at Mahdia, Enachu and Issano. At Issano the breakdown of the lighting plant prohibited the use of the radiophone for most of the year. A rural automatic telephone service was maintained at Bartica. There was general complaint as to the insufficiency of lines between Georgetown and Bartica.

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads: Normal maintenance of the Bartica-Potaro Road was carried out. However the condition of that stretch of the road from Bartica to 21 miles, which had been widened and completely re-conditioned in 1961, deteriorated considerably in 1965, and only major re-conditioning can now return it to a semblance of its original condition. Work was started to prepare for the erection of a new bridge at Caburi. Due to lack of transportation only minor clearing of trails was undertaken in 1965.

Buildings: An insufficiency of funds again severely hampered the reconditioning programme and many buildings in need of urgent attention were again untouched, including the Administration building.

Administration: It should be again recorded that though it is appreciated that the Maintenance Superintendent in charge of public works in the District is centrally stationed at 72 miles Bartica-Potaro Road, his major building commitments are in and around Bartica and without radio communication, or a Superintendent of Works at Bartica, the administration of Bartica suffers from unnecessary and embarrassing delays.

REVENUE

The sum of $38,094.61 was collected at the District Commissioner's Office including the Lands and Mines Section as compared with $27,861.46 in 1965. The difference is due to increased revenue from spirit shops and revenue collected on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Housing in respect of a housing scheme.

UPPER MAZARUNI AMERINDIAN DISTRICT

The administrative headquarters of the district, a sub-district of the Mazaruni-Potaro District is at Kamarang and is under the charge of an Assistant District Commissioner.

STAFF

Mr. R.G. Prasad, Assistant District Commissioner was succeeded by Mr. H. Turner, Assistant District Commissioner on 1st April, 1965. He is supported by a District Field Officer and Class 11 Clerk.

VISITS

His Excellency the Governor and party visited for the day on 4th April. The Prime Minister, Hon. L.F.S. Burnham spent three days in May. The Ministers of Home Affairs, Forests, Lands and Mines, and Agriculture and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs visited the district separately.

Other visitors included several heads of departments, the High Commissioner for Canada and Mr. Knapp, Canadian Adviser on Amerindian Affairs. The British Forces used Kamarang as a base for exercises in the Cuyuni-Mazaruni area.

ADMINISTRATION

The Assistant District Commissioner visited all the major settlements in the district and mining areas adjacent such as Ekereku and Kaikan. The Venezuelan border along the Wenamu and Cuyuni Rivers from Kaikan on the Wenamu was inspected by a Government party, which included the Permanent Secretaries of Forests, Lands and Mines, and of Economic Development, the District Commissioner and the Assistant District Commissioner.

The Town and Country planning Officer was at the end of the year in process of preparing a new lay for building development at Kamarang. The buildings at the Government compound, erected to open the station, are temporary structures, many of which are too close to the airstrip and must be removed. Extensive re-building is required in accordance with the new lay-out.

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

Local Government: Meetings were held at all Villages. There is strong community spirit in the district and a desire to handle their own affairs.

A Captains' Meeting was held during the year and interest was shown in communal action to deal with problems.

Elections for Captains and Councillors were postponed until 1966.

Produce: Black eye peas and peanuts in fair quantities were purchased by the Kamarang Trade Store primarily from farmers in the Paruima. The local market for peanuts was excellent and the demand was greater than the supply. During the year the large drop in price of black eye peas 20¢ to 12¢ per lb. wholesale resulted in a financial loss to the Trade Store.

TRADE STORE

Sales maintained their high level, totalling $134,136.74 in 1965.

AGRICULTURE

A herdsman was employed throughout the year to look after the sheep, about 40 in number and 4 head of cattle. It was necessary to establish nurseries of pangola and coastal Bermuda grass. A plan to establish better grazing and at the same time to remove the animals from the vicinity of the airstrip was carried a step further by the felling of second growth forest on the left bank of the Kamarang River. Small quantities of temperate region crops were produced including potatoes at Kamarang and large onions at Waramabia.

HEALTH

A medical centre with accommodation for a few in-patients is maintained at Kamarang under the charge of a dispenser supported by a rural nurse orderly. The dispenser made regular visits to the settlements. No serious outbreaks of disease occurred during the year. At the Medical centre during the year there were 102 in-patients, 501 out-patients, 37 births and one death. Forty patients were referred to Georgetown including 9 to the Chest Clinic.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Relations with the border countries of Venezuela and Brazil continued to be friendly. No unusual movement of Amerindians across the borders was noted.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Guyana Airways Corporation maintains three scheduled flights per week to Kamarang. Private light aircraft widely use the many airstrips in the area. At Ekeruku much work was done by miners to prepare a landing strip for "Dakota" planes. It is used by light aircraft.

At Kaikan further work was done by the villagers to prepare a light aircraft strip. It was still too spongy when visited in November. The light airstrip at Paruima was kept in order but the strip at Waramadong was neglected and used for agriculture.

EDUCATION

Two pupils at the Kamarang Government School were successful in obtaining Preliminary Certificates. No local interim teachers are now on the staff of that school.

A hostel for secondary school pupils was established by the Seventh Day Adventist body at Paruima. It is completely a church venture. The Kaikan villagers began collecting materials for a teacher's house and a new school. The Seventh Day Adventist Body have applied for a grant aid.

At Chinowieng, a full day's journey from Pipilipai the Missionary at Pipilipai visited in connection with the provision of elementary education for the very young children who are not old enough to stay with relatives at Pipilipai.

Development: The bush road between Kamarang and Waramadong was completed except for a large bridge on the approach to Waramadong.

Irrigation pipes were purchased to provide a gravity feed irrigation system and water supply at Paruima.

FORESTS, LANDS AND MINES

Mining: The Government Station at Kamarang continued to be the main depot centre for mining areas, adjacent to the District, that could be reached overland or by light aeroplanes. The position was not a happy one during the rainy months of June to August, when large numbers of allegedly destitute "porknockers" again descended on the compound determined to sit out the season there and demanded to be fed. It would be most unfortunate for the District if the "porknocking" way of life was permitted to develop in and around the station.

Amerindians with their limited equipment recovered a fair quantity of diamonds. An amount of $4,233.50 was obtained for diamonds sold on their behalf. A total of 6,320 carats was recorded at the Office at Kamarang.

MAGISTERIAL AND POLICE

Court was held on three occasions.

PUBLIC WORKS

Essential maintenance was carried out. The senior station attendant's quarters were completed.

MISSIONS

Mr. A. Lewis, Seventh Day Adventist pastor at Waramadong was transferred to the Coast and had not been replaced by the end of the year.

NORTH WEST DISTRICT

(excluding the North West Amerindian District)

The administrative headquarters of the district is at Mabaruma on the Aruka River and is under the charge of a District Commissioner. Communication is mainly by river and there are few large population centres as most of the people live in small settlements on the rivers. The largest concentrations of population are at Port Kaituma and Matthews Ridge, where 2,000 work or are dependent on the Manganese Mines Management Ltd. There are, however, plans to make full use of the hilly land west and south of Mabaruma for land settlement.

STAFF

Mr. C. McA. Ashley served as District Commissioner until March. Mr. M.L. Persaud, Assistant District Commissioner acted until September and Mr. F.B. Green acted until the end of the year.

VISITS

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Luyt visited the district 1st - 3rd September. Other visitors included the Honourable Minister of Forests, Lands and Mines, Mr. R. Stracey, Project Manager, World Food Programme, Dr. A.C.D. Lovell and Mr. T.Y. Garland, advisors to the Government on the Development Programme.

ADMINISTRATION

The Land Officer was withdrawn in August and has not been replaced. The District continued to be without a Co-operative Officer throughout the year.

The Land Transport pool continued to be operated on a fairly satisfactory basis. A new Land Rover PS 239 was received.

The District Commissioner was relieved of the duties of Chairman of the Local Board of Guardians and the Customs Officer was appointed Chairman in September. The new arrangement has not been satisfactory, as no meetings of the Board have been held since the appointment, nor has any work being carried out.

FRONTIER RELATIONS

There was no direct contact with officials from the Venezuelan side of the Border. The usual movement on a small scale of passengers and trade between the two territories was maintained.

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AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

The District Commissioner paid several visits to the North West Amerindian District which is within his district but is reported on separately.

Mr. S. Campbell, M.L.A. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs visited the district in August.

Some preparatory action was taken with regard to the proposal to settle Amerindians on land reserved for that purpose adjacent to the Land Settlement Scheme at Wauna. The idea is to start in a small way and expand as funds and experience permit.

A self-help scheme to build a roadway to the "Mabaruma Jungle" settlement was completed. A scheme to pipe water from the Aruka River to the Hotoquai Hills was started.

AGRICULTURE

There was no marked change in the general pattern of agriculture in the district. The main crop of Liberica Coffee was sustained by the guaranteed Government price. Other produce was corn, ground provisions and citrus. Interest was maintained in cocoa and cattle.

The Government Experimental Station at Hosororo continued its traditional role including the propagation of citrus, coconuts, robusta coffee and other plants for distribution.

FORESTS

There was an appreciable increase in certain classes of timber production due to favourable weather conditions and an increased demand for building materials. Minor Forest production also rose in volume but due to the increased distances of extraction routes and a shortage of labour the export trade to Surinam in dalli decreased from 132,154 cu.ft. in 1964 to 108,880 cu.ft. Timber production figures were:-

Class 1	-	139,930 cu.ft.
Class 11	-	162,799 cu.ft.
Class 111	-	126,333 cu.ft.

Other Forest Products:

Mangrove Bark	-	403,360 lbs.
Charcoal	-	21,000 lbs.

The sawmill at Mount Everard was dismantled and it is understood that it is the owner's intention to re-erect it in the Waini River, where mora is more accessible. With the cessation of work at Mount Everard, the Forest Station there was consequently closed. There are now five sawmills operating in the district.

HEALTH

There is a hospital at Mabaruma under a Resident Surgeon, a Mobile Health Unit operated by a Travelling Dispenser and a Health Centre at Morawhanna with a Nurse/Midwife in charge. The Manganese Mines Management Ltd. maintains a hospital at Pakero for their employees.

At the Public Hospital, Mabaruma, there were 1,352 admissions 7,558 out-patients, 177 births and 29 deaths as compared with 1,288, 1,787, 155 and 22 in 1964. The Travelling Dispenser treated 5,272 patients.

The Resident Surgeon makes regular river trips and on these 7,656 patients were treated.

Tuberculosis: The Resident Surgeon reported that about one-third of the patients at Best Hospital, West Bank, Demerara are from the North West District and that the fare for sending persons to that Hospital for checking is very high. An X-Ray Unit has been given by OXFAM and should be installed in 1966.

The North West Branch of the B.G. Society for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis which is under the Chairmanship of the District Commissioner made good progress.

Malaria: No cases were reported in 1965 and the issue of chloroquinised salt was terminated early in the year.

MAGISTERIAL, POLICE AND PRISONS

Magisterial: Following the transfer of Mr. C. McA. Ashley, the District Commissioner ceased to perform the duties of Travelling Magistrate which were undertaken by a Magistrate from Georgetown. Thirteen sittings were held at Mabaruma, four at Matthews Ridge and four at Acquero in the North West Amerindian District.

Police: The lack of river and land transport considerably affected the work of the Police.

There were 19 indictable and 260 summary cases as against 53 and 372 cases in 1964.

Prisons: The reconditioning of the female prison at Mabaruma was started. There was one escaped prisoner, who has yet not been recaptured. Admissions to the Prisons were 44, and 31 were discharged as against 70 and 6 in 1964.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The only Local Authority in the district is that of Morawhanna, a small settlement on the Barima River. At the end of 1965 arrears rates were $2,487.81 as against $2,705.50 in 1964. The percentage of rates collected was 61.68% as compared with 60.98% in 1964.

PUBLIC WORKS

The District Commissioner carries out the functions of Deputy to the Chief Works and Hydraulics Officer for the North West District. He is assisted by an Overseer for buildings and roads.

The usual programme of maintenance and reconditioning was carried out on a somewhat reduced scale from lack of funds. The absence of an Overseer between June and November adversely affected the work.

Creeks and trails cleared were:-

(a) Creeks:- Morebo, Itabo, Wauna, Barama (to Kokerite) Bonasika (Yarakita to Aruau)

(b) Trails:- Matthews Ridge to Five Stars

MINING

Gold: Production was 776 ozs. as compared with 954 ozs. in 1964. Mr. W. Baird of Baramita was responsible for most of the production.

Manganese: Shipments of Manganese ore to Trinidad rose by approximately 22% when compared with the previous year. The total amount of ore shipped during the year was 166,194 tons as compared with 136,123 tons in 1964 and 191,892 tons in 1963.

GEOLOGICAL

Government survey teams were active in the Barama, at Yakashuru and Iauna.

EDUCATION

The Aruau Government School, which was situated near the St. Dominic's R.C. School, was closed by the Education Officer. It is understood that there were less than ten pupils attending at the time.

A Government Secondary School was opened on 6th October and has an enrolment of 46. Although designated the "Hosororo Government Secondary School", it operates at Mabaruma in an old building utilised by the Government Staff as a recreation centre. There are many aspects of staffing and accommodations which are still very unsatisfactory.

AIR COMMUNICATIONS

In June the Grumman Air Service to the district was resumed. The plane now lands twice monthly at Coomaka instead of at Morawhanna. The schedule arranged to facilitate the visiting Magistrate is unsuitable to the public.

DEVELOPMENT

Wauna-Yarakita Land Development Project: Started in 1960 under the supervision of the Land Development Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, the project is the first major step, other than at Mabaruma, towards the cultivation of the hilly lands of the district instead of the traditional pegasse swamp farms. Fifty families are being settled in 3,300 acres, 600 of which is arable land and 900 acres will be used for cattle rearing. There will be mixed farming, and coffee, citrus,/cocoa will be grown. At the end of the year $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles had been completed of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles access road from Wanaina, twenty-six families had erected temporary dwellings and 107 acres were in cultivation. The settlers receive food aid from the World Food Programme. With a view to extending land development in the area a bush road is being cut from Wauna/Yarakita to Port Kaituma.

Self-Help: A Scheme to build a pathway to the Morawhanna Clinic was completed.

GUYANA CREDIT CORPORATION

The total value of loans approved by the Corporation in respect to the North West District was $15,000 as compared with $10,000 in 1964.

REVENUE

Revenue collected at the Sub-Treasury, Mabaruma, amounted to $29,514.99 as compared with $35,366.60 in 1964. The volume of work handled by the Sub-Treasury was $1,084,641.34 as compared with $955,013.45 in 1964.

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NORTH WEST AMERINDIAN DISTRICT

The administrative Headquarters of the North West Amerindian District which is a sub-district of the North West District, is at Acquero on the Moruca River. The district is under the charge of an Assistant District Commissioner, who is also responsible for the administration of the Pomeroon-Ituribisi Amerindian District and to a certain extent of the other Amerindian settlements in the Pomeroon.

STAFF

The Assistant District Commissioner is supported by a Clerk and an Office Assistant. Mr. H. Turner, the Assistant District Commissioner was transferred in March and except for a short period when Mr. M.L. Persaud, Assistant District Commissioner took over Mr. J.M. Humphrey, District Field Officer, acted as Assistant District Commissioner. Mr. E.A. Cundiff, Amerindian Agricultural Officer, employed from grant-aid by the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, assumed duty in September and remained at Moruca until December.

Mr. R.E.M. Routledge, a Canadian Agricultural Extension Officer, provided by the Canadian Government for Amerindian areas, spent sometime at Moruca prior to taking up permanent residence there primarily to assist on the Kumaka/Quebanna Land Settlement Scheme.

VISITS

In January Mr. S.C. Knapp and the Parliamentary Secretary for Amerindian Affairs toured the district. In August Dr. F. Mc Candless and 11 medical students of the Albany College carried out a medical survey of children. The Commissioner of Interior, his assistant Mr. A.A.M. Learmond and the District Commissioner, North West District, visited regularly.

Visitors with special interest in the Kumaka/Quebanna Land Development Scheme included the Minister of Agriculture, the Conservator of Forests, Mr. G. Wagenaar, F.A.O. Agronomist, the Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs, Mr. Dey, Director of World Food Programme, Mr. W. Harding U.N., and the Supervisor of Operations, World Food Programme.

Tours: The Assistant District Commissioner regularly toured all the major settlements for which he is responsible. Transportation difficulties in the latter part of the year adversely affected his visits.

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AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

Local Government: The Santa Rosa Area Council continued to show responsible development. Elections were held in February/March. Unfortunately the financial position of the Council slumped as very few persons paid their head tax. Confusion on this issue is a direct result of the political and racial disturbances of previous years.

The Village Council at Wakapao and the Advisory Committees at Waramuri, Cabacaburi and St. Monica met irregularly. The development of local government in these areas requires the regular attention of an officer. This will be possible when the staff at Moruca is increased.

Trade: Copra and coffee continued to be the main products of the district. There was a ready market for both products at 11¢ per lb. copra and 40¢ per lb. 'Grade A' Coffee. Sales through the Moruca Producers Co-operative Society were 15,836 lbs. copra and 657 lbs. coffee beans.

Agriculture: A total of 116.69 inches rainfall was recorded at Kumaka. The Agricultural Field Assistant distributed 6,787 coconut seedlings, 15,213 Robusta coffee seedlings, 2,440 citrus and 362 chickens. As a result of better arrangements planting material for the Kumaka/Quebanna Scheme was in good supply, except for citrus plants.

A fish pond was established at the Agricultural Demonstration station, also a vegetable garden and peanut plot. A school garden was started at Santa Rosa R.C. School.

HEALTH

A total of 3,096 patients as compared with 2,577 in 1964, was treated by the Dispenser. There were no serious outbreaks of disease. Admissions to the Health Centre at Acquero were 98, of which 80 were maternity cases. The Dispenser toured the area, but his movements were restricted by unserviceable transport equipment. The Health Centre is in urgent need of repair. D.D.T. and Malaria campaigns were carried out in February and November.

LABOUR

Apart from river clearing and other Government undertakings there was little employment in the district. The number of men farming steadily in the Kumaka/Quebanna Scheme increased and there was the usual seasonal work in survey parties. In the Pomeroon, logging was the main activity.

FORESTS

In the Pomeroon, Amerindian forest production was maintained. In the Manawarin some logs were extracted. The river, however, requires extensive clearing.

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DEVELOPMENT

Kumaka/Quebanna Land Development Scheme: One of the main drawbacks to the progress of the scheme has been the absence of adequate technical assistance. A grant of £15,000 by the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, to employ an Agricultural Officer for Amerindian areas on a three year basis and to pay certain of his expenses, was very welcome. Mr. E.A. Cundiff, the Officer who had had previous experience in the country, was stationed at Acquero in September and arrangements were made for an Agricultural Officer provided by the Canadian Government to be also stationed there. The Canadian Government is providing him with road transport and is to also supply a Community Development Adviser for the Scheme. We can therefore look forward to accelerated development in 1966. It is still very necessary to solve at an early date the problems of marketing, housing and water supply.

MAGISTERIAL AND POLICE

Court was held at Acquero on four occasions. Police patrols visited regularly but there is need for closer supervision.

PUBLIC WORKS

Buildings: Maintenance and reconditioning of buildings was carried out in the district. Several buildings need major attention.

Rivers: As far as funds would permit the Moruca and other navigable rivers were cleared of blockages. Certain sections of the Moruca River are now so overgrown that passage is difficult and the difficulty increases yearly. A major clearing programme is required.

COMMUNICATIONS

Air: During the year the number of flights to Charity was increased to four per week in keeping with the traffic demand.

Mail: The weekly mail service since its introduction has been a boon to the District. The possibility of extending the service and postal service along the Kumaka/Quebanna road is under consideration.

EDUCATION

The need for establishing a Government School in the Kumaka/Quebanna area is receiving the attention of the Ministry of Education. As permanent occupation is taken up adequate school accommodation must be provided.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The appointment of a Local Board of Guardians for the North West Amerindian District is still awaited.

CO-OPERATIVES

As reported in 1964 the Co-operative Societies in the district continue to suffer from lack of supervision. One society at Wakapao ceased to function. It is essential for the development of the district that these societies receive regular visits from officers of the Co-operative Department. The cash turnover of the Moruca Consumers Co-operative Society was $30,000 in 1965.

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OREALLA AND EPIRA AMERINDIAN DISTRICTS

The administrative headquarters is at Orealla left bank Corentyne River and is under the charge of an Assistant District Commissioner.

In addition to the Orealla and Epira Districts the Assistant District Commissioner is responsible for certain scattered mission settlements viz. Wikki on the Berbice River, St. Francis on the Mahaicony River, St. Cuthberts on the Mahaica Creek and Santa on the Kamuni Creek, Demerara River. The estimated population of all settlements is 2,150 mostly of the Arawak tribe, with a sprinkling of Carib and Waraus. A large proportion at Santa and at Wikki are of mixed races.

The main occupation is logging. In the Mahaica and Mahaicony Rivers and at Santa the cutting of wallaba posts and piece wood predominates and many work on timber grants; in the Corentyne river logging is more independent of grants and while posts and poles are cut there, other logs such as crabwood are produced for sale to sawmills.

STAFF

Mr. O.G.T. Marks, Assistant District Commissioner carried out the duties of the post throughout the year.

VISITORS

The Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. M. Gregg, V.C., P.C., C.B.E., M.C., Mrs. Gregg, Mr. Knapp, Canadian Adviser and the Commissioner of Interior visited in February.

TOURS

Regular visits were made by the Assistant District Commissioner to Siparuta. St. Francis was visited twice and St. Cuthberts thrice. A familiarisation tour of the Berbice River was made in October.

BORDER RELATIONS

The traditional good relations continued between the staff at Orealla and Suriname officials stationed on the Corentyne River.

AGRICULTURE

Apart from Orealla and Siparuta, where small quantities of rice is grown largely for home consumption, agriculture in all areas remained at the level of subsistence farming. There are plans to introduce cattle on the savannah at Orealla, but all progress depends on technical assistance and the Agricultural Officers [illegible] with these settlements. Some assistance was granted in the struggle to eradicate accashi ants but more swing fog machines are necessary to control this pest.

COMMUNICATIONS

There is a fortnightly mail service to Orealla and Siparuta and a weekly steamer service to the Berbice River Settlements. There is no regular means of transport in the Mahaica and Mahaicony rivers.

At Orealla where there is a radiophone contact was maintained with Georgetown throughout the year.

EDUCATION

There are two schools at Orealla/Siparuta, one Government and one Denominational. In the Berbice River the Amerindians mainly attend six schools, five of which are Lutheran and one Congregational. The Government School at Orealla is hampered by the fact that special accommodation is not provided for the Headmaster or Assistant Teachers.

FORESTS

In May the people at Orealla obtained a loan from the Credit Corporation to purchase a Tractor for the hauling of logs. The availability of their own tractor makes a great difference to their logging economy.

HEALTH

In the Corentyne River there is a Nurse Midwife stationed at Orealla and a Dispenser makes monthly visits to the area. In the Berbice River there are Dispensary/Sick Bays at Sandhills, St. Lust and Ida Sabina and the dispensers at Mara and Ida Sabina visit the settlements monthly. In the Mahaica, Mahaicony and at Santa a dispenser also visits monthly.

The Dental Surgeon visited Orealla on one occasion during the year but none of the other settlements. The T.B. Medical Officer also visited Orealla but no other visits by a Medical Officer was made in any of the settlements. Anti-polio vaccines were administered by Health Visitors at Orealla and Siparuta. As a result of one recorded case of malaria a Malaria Eradication Programme team visited Orealla.

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LABOUR

During the last quarter of the year the majority of the men at Orealla found employment at the Cabalebo Scheme in Suriname.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Meetings of the District Council at Orealla were irregular owing to the frequent absence of the Councillors at work, a drawback to the development of local government found in many Amerindian Villages. There are Advisory Committees at Wikki, Santa, St. Cuthbert's and St. Francis.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A very praiseworthy effort was made by a group of young Government Officers and others who included an Agriculturalist, Engineer, Nutrionists and Welfare Officers. Adopting St. Cuthbert's, which can be reached by Land Rover from Atkinson Field, they visited the settlement monthly to advise and assist in its development.