



British Guiana.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE INTERIOR

FOR THE YEAR

1962

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA, BRITISH GUIANA.

1964.

C.G.P. & S. 379/64.

Madam:

I have the honour to submit hereunder my report on the administration of the Districts in the Interior for the year 1962.

ORGANISATION

The Department of the Interior is a Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs and is responsible, under the Commissioner of the Interior, for the administrative control of three Administrative Districts, viz: the Mazaruni-Potaro District with an area of 21,555 square miles and a population of approximately 12,600; the Rupununi District with an area of 37,380 square miles and a population of approximately 10,550; and the North West District with an area of 8,507 square miles and an approximate population of 13,350. 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 are in charge of Assistant District Commissioners and controlled from Head Office. A District Officer of the Department is in charge of the Orealla Amerindian District in the Coastal Area.

STAFF

Mr. J.B. Bamford continued in office as Commissioner of the Interior until 12th August, when he went on pre-retirement leave. Mr. E.M. Cossou, Deputy Commissioner of Local Government was appointed to act as Commissioner from that date.

The Departmental establishment is made up of three District Commissioners, five Assistant District Commissioners, an Administrative Assistant, eight District Field Officers, thirteen Clerks and three Typist-Clerks, together with various subordinate posts. To cover adequately such a large area, with a scattered population, necessitates the breaking up of the Staff into small units. This constitutes a never-ending staff problem due to leave, sickness, transfers and the fact that it is difficult to recruit personnel willing to serve in these remote areas. At the end of the year there were vacancies for one District Commissioner, two District Field Officers and four Clerks.

VISITS

His Excellency Dermot Murphy, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E., Governor's Deputy, visited the Mazaruni-Potaro District in October.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Senator the Hon. C. Christian, accompanied by Mr. J.A.S. Douglas, Permanent Secretary and Mr. E.M. Cossou, Commissioner of the Interior (ag.), visited each of the five Districts from time to time.

The Minister of Education and Social Development, Senator the Hon. C.V. Nunes, visited the Mazaruni-Potaro District; the Minister of Communications, Hon. E.M.G. Wilson, the Mazaruni-Potaro, Rupununi and North West Districts; the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, Hon. R. Chandisingh, the Mazaruni-Potaro and Rupununi Districts; and Senator the Hon. H.J.M. Hubbard, Minister of Trade and Industry, visited the Mazaruni-Potaro District.

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS:

Population: In 1960, the Census disclosed that there were 25,460 Amerindians, the number of males being slightly in excess of females. The estimated population at the end of 1962 was 28,000.

Education: Government awarded six free places at secondary schools to Amerindian children who qualified at the common entrance examinations.

The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs,
6, Brickdam, Georgetown,
BRITISH GUIANA.

Unfortunately, the awards were announced too late for adequate arrangements to be made for any suitable students to be selected and placed by September, however, one girl from Paramakatoi in the Pakaraimas, who was attending school in Georgetown was awarded a free place.

Amerindians are now very conscious of the need for education, and almost all of the schools in Amerindian areas are faced with the problem of overcrowding. In some places, population movement has created the need for new schools. In all Amerindian areas, teachers' houses of a reasonable standard are required if suitable qualified staff are to be expected to serve in the more remote parts of the country.

There was an increase of one in number of Government schools in Amerindian areas. The distribution is as follows:-

One at Orealla	-	(built in 1962)
One at St. Ignatius	-	(built in 1958)
Two in the North West Amerindian District	-	(taken over in 1961)
One at Kamarang	-	(built in 1957)

Health: The health of the Amerindian population continued to be satisfactory, only in the Rupununi was malaria still endemic. However, there is an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis which is most disturbing, the B.C.G. team has already visited some areas, and it is hoped that the area of their activities will be extended shortly.

Economy of Amerindians: Activity in the Forest Industry was seriously curtailed during the year, and the Amerindian with his limited resources, was probably the worst hit as a very large number depend on logging to earn money. In the Rupununi too the Foot and Mouth disease amongst cattle restricted the earnings of the Amerindians as they could not all make their shipments of beef on which so many depend.

Local Government: Although there was no spectacular progress, some of the unofficial councils were operating satisfactorily and, by year end, steps were being taken to have them declared official village councils.

Amerindian Development: The pace of integration is very slow, and with the Administration handicapped by lack of staff and suitable personnel and insufficient funds, it is going to take much longer than had been at first anticipated for the Amerindian to be able to take his place with the other people of British Guiana.

General Elections: The revision of the electoral registers in the several districts was carried out by the officers in charge of each district.

Amerindian Purposes Fund: At the 31st December, 1962, the Fund stood at \$33,802.47. (unaudited).

\$3,150.28 was spent during the year as follows:-

Wages of a Caretaker	-	\$	42.00
Grant for Amerindian handicraft	-		274.88
Expenses - destitute Amerindians	-		241.72
Expenses - feeding destitute Amerindians			874.60
Purchase of shares - Meat Marketing Ltd.			500.00
Purchase of chlordan	-		223.98
Advances - St. Ignatius Hostel Committee			960.00
Miscellaneous Expenditure	-		33.10
		\$	<u>3,150.28</u>

Aid to Churches: An amount of \$24,400.00 was paid to Churches to assist in providing various services for Amerindians as follows:-

Anglican Church	- \$11,000.00
Roman Catholic Church	- 11,000.00
Church of Scotland	- 1,000.00
B.G. Congregational Union	- 1,000.00
Methodist Church	- 400.00

Amerindian Hostels: Hostels are located at Georgetown, Mahaicony, Mahaica (Demerara); New Amsterdam, Springlands (Berbice); Supenaam, Anna Regina, Bartica, (Essequibo); Morawhanna (North West District); Kamarang (Mazaruni-Potaro); Lethem, Kopinang, Waipa, Paramakatoi and Kamana (Rupununi). A total of 1,592 Amerindians of whom 392 were females used the hostel in Georgetown during 1962.

The Commissioner of the Interior continued to serve as a member of the B.G. Tourist Committee and he was also appointed to be a member of the Committee on River Navigation Control.

RUPUNUNI DISTRICT

The administrative headquarters of the district is situated at Lethem in the North Savannahs and was under charge of a District Commissioner. District Field Officers were stationed at Annai, Karasabai and Aishalton throughout the year.

Regular visits by the District Commissioner and other officers to all areas of the district included a complete tour of the Northern Pakaraimas by the District Commissioner.

Staff: Mr. A.A.M. Learmond continued as District Commissioner throughout the year. Mr. W.H. Seggar, Assistant District Commissioner, assumed duty on 20th July.

Visits: In addition to the Minister of Home Affairs and his party, and other Ministers of the Government, visitors included the Chief Education Officer, Community Development Officer and the Planning Officer of the Ministry of Education and Social Development, the Commissioner of Income Tax, Director of Civil Aviation and the Comptroller of Customs and Excise.

Other visitors included Mr. A. Ben Ari and Mr. Jovis Ivens in connection with Land Settlement and Documentary Films, respectively; Mr. L. Sandifer and Mr. K. Shustari, United Nations Sanitary Engineers; Dr. Hawker, Filariasis Research Officer, Mr. P. Sutmoller in connection with the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, Dr. Rutten of the W.H.O. and Dr. Giglioli in connection with the Malaria Eradication Programme.

Frontier Relations: The informal visit of His Excellency the Governor of Rio Franco, General Clovis Nova da Costa, with his wife and party, to Lethem in August, whilst on a boat trip to Bon Fim, was an example of the cordial relationship existing with Brazil. Agricultural and administrative officers were invited to visit Boa Vista. Notification has been received that Bon Fim is to be set up as a Brazilian Government Station which is expected to foster closer collaboration between the Governments and traders on both sides of the border.

During the latter part of the year, work was begun on the establishment of a Federal Army airstrip and station in the vicinity of the Rio Caphine in Brazil just south of our border in the area adjoining the headwaters of the Essequibo. The Wai Wai Indians at the Konashen Mission were allowed to take employment on this project.

Amerindian Affairs

(a) Local Government: The sixth Annual Conference of Touchaus (Captains) was held at Shulinab in December; all Touchaus in the district attended. The agenda included discussions with the Agricultural Field Assistant, and it is hoped to make this a regular feature of the Conference.

Elections for Touchaus and elections for councillors took place at Nappi and Yupukari. Neither district had formerly had a Touchau appointed by the Governor.

(b) Trade Store: The Trade Stores at Lethem, Aishalton and Karasabai continued to render satisfactory service to the district. A village shop was opened at Annai and is operating successfully. The village shop at Sand Creek also continued to operate successfully. In the Northern Pakaraimas, some assistance in this direction was given by the Missionaries at Kurukabaru and Paramakatoi, but the Amerindians in the Ireng and at Kopinang are forced to buy at the mining shops where prices are very high. Until better arrangements can be made, the school teacher at Waipa has undertaken to act as an agent for the Lethem Trade Store for the sale of certain essential goods.

(c) Produce and Trade: There was some fear that the corn produced would not find a ready market in the district as the Rupununi Development Company, the largest buyer, was holding heavy stocks. These fears did not materialise. Tobacco production dropped as a result of the uncertainty of

the market in 1961 and the price in 1962 was consequently better.

Some tomatoes were shipped to Georgetown, mainly from the Monkey Mountain area, and there were also small shipments of black eye peas and peanuts. Amerindian bleeders accounted for 497,280 lbs. of the 528,640 lbs. of balata produced in the district, as compared with 384,083 lbs. of 453,832 lbs. in 1961. A comparison of cattle and tobacco sales effected through this Department in the period 1960 - 1962 was as follows:-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Cattle	\$24,122.82	\$18,591.43	\$11,947.31
Tobacco	4,413.85	2,090.30	2,178.84

(d) Water Supply: Jet bore wells with hand pumps were laid down at Karaudanawa 3, Sand Creek 4, Awarawanawa, Nappi 2 and Moco-Moco. Two of the wells at Karaudanawa have not proved successful. The system is one of trial and error: a large number of test bores are usually necessary before a suitable site is found, and testing can only be done during the months November - early April. Progress in the overall programme continues to be slow and there is need for more suitable equipment and an additional field team.

A large hollow block well was completed at Annai.

(e) Aided Self -Help:

- Schemes prior to 1962) (1) Erection of a teacher's house at Sand Creek;
- completed in 1962) (2) Fencing of a school garden at Massara.
- 1962 Schemes completed) (1) Fencing of farm lands, Karasabai
-) (2) Fencing of farm lands, Shulinab
-) (3) Fencing of farm lands, Potarinau
-) (4) Fencing of farm lands, Annai
-) (5) Fencing of school garden, Kopinang
-) (6) Erection of Community Centre, Karasabai.

(f) Training: The adult education course at Lethem was discontinued early in the year as interest waned. The cotton spinning course at Annai was discontinued for lack of a suitable teacher. Similar courses at Aishalten and Sand Creek were completed and others started at Sawarinau and Awarawanawa where lack of funds prevented completion during the year.

(g) Health: The general standard of health was maintained, but despite the malaria eradication programme, malaria continued to be rampant in the villages along the Kanuku Mountains from St. Ignatius to as far south as Miriwau.

B.C.G. inoculations were carried out throughout the district, and, following an outbreak of yellow fever across the border from Yurong Paru, all persons from Karasabai to Monkey Mountain were inoculated against the disease.

Agriculture:

(a) Extension Service: The extension service to the Amerindian Villages begun in 1961 was maintained by the Agricultural Field Assistant, who, in his report, mentioned that his work was hampered by lack of capital, equipment, trained field staff and a boat for travelling during the wet months.

Special attention was paid to the Napri Scheme. Nineteen farmers are now involved, twelve of whom live in the farming area. Approximately 2,000 lbs. peanuts and 1,000 lbs. black-eye peas were produced. Thirty citrus and 75 coconut trees were established and trials carried out on various crops. Under the Progressive Farmers' Scheme, 75 chickens were acquired and a dairy heifer purchased,

At Karasabai, a modified "revolving" heifer scheme has been started in an effort to increase cattle production. Forty cows and a bull were supplied by the St. Ignatius Stock Farm; it is hoped to extend the scheme to other villages.

At Monkey Mountain, a co-operative producers' society was formed by some ex-prospectors with the assistance of a few Amerindians. A good crop of tomatoes was harvested but the produce suffered some damage in transit, especially from farm to air-transportation point. The Society is no longer operating because of members leaving the district.

Production in the district during the year was estimated at:-

Corn	200,000 lbs.
Peanuts	4,000 "
Tomatoes	8,000 "
Black eye peas	1,700 "

(b) St. Ignatius Livestock Station: Mr. R. Hewson, Agronomist, was in charge of the Station throughout the year and a Veterinary Officer continued to be attached there. The scale of operations was reduced during the year and the whole research programme is under revision.

New corrals and working chutes were built at the Compound; an office and store for the Agricultural Assistant (Extension) and a store for the Veterinary Laboratory were completed.

Ten pure bred bulls were loaned to cattle producers and eleven purchased by them. The response to sale offers was disappointing and is attributable to the financial depression following the 1961 outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

A pure bred Arab stallion and a Creole stallion were acquired to up-breed the working horses in the district. The sheep herd now numbers 25, and investigations will be continued into the possibilities of sheep production.

(c) Foot and Mouth Disease: The outbreak of foot and mouth disease petered out early in the year, preventive spraying and police control were withdrawn, and in May shipments of cattle to Georgetown were permitted. Preventive inoculation is being maintained.

Forests:

(a) Balata: The long wet season favoured the production of balata and there was an increase in production from 453,832 lbs. in 1961 to 528,640 lbs. in 1962.

(b) Lumber: Royalty amounting to \$152.76 was collected as compared with \$493.75 in 1961. The decrease was due to a large reduction in the Government building programme and the depressed conditions in the district generally.

Mining and Geology:

(a) Diamonds: The comparative figures of diamonds won in the years 1961 and 1962 were as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Stones</u>	<u>Metric Carats</u>
1961	10,002	1,665.46
1962	6,645	1,507.46

(b) Gold: Only 4 ozs. 03 dwts. 18 grs. of gold were recovered during the year.

(c) Geology: There were a number of surveys in various parts of the district.

Magisterial and Police:

(a) Magisterial: Courts were held at Lethem, Annai, Orinduik and Aishalton. 131 criminal cases and 23 civil matters were disposed of. There were 72 convictions for various offences and fines totalling \$1,061.00 were imposed.

(b) Police: Stations were maintained at Annai, Good Hope, Lethem and Orinduik. The strength included three Amerindian policemen.

Prisons: A total of 19 prisoners underwent sentences during 1962 compared with 4 in the previous year.

Public Works:

(a) Buildings: The Police Station and Police Superintendent's quarters were reconditioned during the year.

(b) Water Supply: The windmill at the Tabatinga was unserviceable for most of the year, and the well at Moco-Moco provided only a variable supply. Test holes were bored at the Lethem Compound to try and obtain a better supply, but without success.

(c) Roads & Rivers: General maintenance of roads and trails was carried out, the trails in the Northern Pakaraimas being done under the supervision of the Sub-Warden, Orinduik.

The heavy flooding in May caused great damage to the causeway at the Saurab bridge, and emergency work exhausted the funds allocated under the "Lethem-Wichabai Road". The causeway needs further strengthening.

Four bridges were built and a concrete causeway laid down over the Makudud Creek with Amerindian Development funds.

(d) Air-strips: The air-fields at Lethem, Annai, Good Hope, Aishalton, Karenambo and Karasabai were cleared of stubble and ant-hills. The approach at Aishalton was improved and some sheeting with gravel done at Lethem. The improvements to the Wichabai airstrip were not continued as no funds were allocated for this work.

(e) Transport: The lack of serviceable machines again restricted the work of the Department. Three lorries, out of a fleet of seven, were awaiting a Board of Survey and their replacement is very much needed.

Labour: There was no change in the pattern of employment. From January to May, employment in the cattle industry was almost at a stand-still, but with the re-commencement of shipments to Georgetown by the end of the year conditions were gradually returning to normal.

Medical: During the latter part of the year, Dr. J. Talbot, the doctor for Amerindian areas was away on vacation leave; his post was not filled. Dr. F.B. Davis of the Unevangelised Fields Mission remained in residence at Lethem and continued to do good work as an unpaid volunteer both at the Hospital there and in the villages; more often than not using his own drugs. The use of the light aircraft of the Aviation Missionary Fellowship at Lethem for mercy trips was maintained.

The much needed extension and improvements to the hospital building at Lethem have not been carried out, nor has the nursing strength been increased. The number of admissions to the hospital totalled 352 as compared with 378 in 1961. There were 32 deliveries and 1,355 persons were treated as out-patients as against 1,657 in 1961. 32 patients were transferred to Georgetown for treatment. There were 134 births and 22 deaths registered in the district.

The Medical Ranger Service operated with varying degrees of efficiency which was affected by the non payment during the year of a horse allowance. At least two additional rangers are required. The number of patients treated was 1,976.

No Dental Officer visited the district during the year. No other specialist service is provided.

Missions & Education:

(a) Missions: The activities of the Missions were maintained as in previous years. Medical assistance to the villages by the Unevangelised Fields Mission doctor continued, but regular tours were not possible as a result of the demands of Lethem Hospital in the absence of the Doctor.

New schools were erected at Yakarinta by the Anglican Body and at Maruranau by the Roman Catholic Body; extensions were built to the Potarinau and Shea R.C. Schools, and others re-roofed. New schools are in process of erection by the Roman Catholic Body at Sand Creek and at Karasabai.

(b) Education: The Education Officer inspected the schools in the northern savannahs and in the southern Pakaraimas.

The building housing the preparatory division of the St. Ignatius Government School threatened to collapse, and was temporarily strengthened by the villagers. A new building is badly needed. With the completion of the Hostel and the raising of the status of the school, the provision of more accommodation for teachers and the provision of a primary school at Lethem, where there are now over 80 children attending St. Ignatius, present problems which are receiving the consideration of the Ministry of Education.

Of the six scholarships to secondary schools offered Amerindians in the Colony, two were reserved for pupils of the Rupununi district, but the offer came too late in the year for arrangements to be made.

Postal & Telecommunications:

(a) Postal: Lethem remained the only Post Office. A new postal agency was opened at Kurukabaru.

Details of business conducted at Lethem and at the largest agency, Annai, are set out below:-

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Lethem	\$280,714.40	\$175,971.68
Annai	6,622.02	8,315.73

(b) Telecommunications: A new radiophone transmitter and receiver were in process of installation at the Annai Station at the end of the year. If the District Commissioner's Office at Lethem were similarly equipped a closed circuit could be established for the Rupununi district.

Communications: B.G. Airways (Govt.) improved their services to the district through the re-organisation of their schedules and, in some cases, more frequent flights.

Customs: The volume of trade with Brazil slumped during the year. Lack of currency due to the drop in value of the cruzeiro was largely responsible for the reduction. Import duties amounted to \$3,663.28.

Trade: Goods to the value of \$132,470 were re-exported to Brazil as compared with \$330,229.11 in 1961. They included flour, onions, potatoes, dry goods, toilet preparations, hardware, bicycles, stoves and such items as radios, radiograms, refrigerators and auto-cycles.

The principal domestic exports were again beef, precious stones and balata. Other commodities included small quantities of tomatoes, black eye peas and peanuts.

The closing date for the financial year of the Lethem Trade Store was changed to 28th February. Cash takings for the year 1962 - January to December - were \$95,227.14, including amounts of \$4,484.45 and \$6,156.27 collected from the branch stores at Aishalton and Karasabai, respectively.

This compares with figures of \$121,180.63, \$7,969.20 and \$10,395.91, respectively, for the previous year.

Development: In addition to the aided self-help schemes mentioned above, which were wholly Amerindian projects, other schemes completed during the year were:-

- (a) The improvement of the road to the Moco-Moco farms, and
- (b) Erection of a bridge to give access to the same farms.

The Hostel building at St. Ignatius was completed and some equipment purchased.

At the end of the year three medical huts were in process of erection: - A medical hut and community hall at Aishalton and huts at Awarawanawa and Achewib.

Revenue: Revenue collected at the Sub-Treasuries at Lethem and Orinduik totalled \$12,607.13 and \$182.00, respectively.

NORTH WEST DISTRICT

The administrative headquarters of the District is at Mabaruma on the Aruka River and is under charge of a District Commissioner. The vastness of the District and its present means of communications, which are mainly by river, continue to be a handicap to the Administration. The fact, too, that there are few population centres, and these scattered over a wide area, tends to make effective planning and execution difficult.

A systematic programme which provides for extensive river clearing and a network of subsidiary roads (actually trails), wide enough to accommodate vehicular traffic, connecting the adjoining and occupied hills around Mabaruma and its environs with the Barima-Wanaina Road, is necessary if available services are to be carried to many more of the people of the district.

The main foci of population continued to be on the Aruka Hill, the lower reaches of the Kaituma, Barima, Aruka and Koriabo Rivers. In addition, there is the concentration of approximately 1,000 workers at Port Kaituma and Matthew's Ridge, who find employment with the Manganese Mines Management Co., Ltd., and also in ancillary services provided by the Management for the workers.

A motor transport Pool, comprising two Land Rovers, was operated by the Interior Department, serving all Government Departments (except Agriculture) and maintaining a day-and-night Ambulance Service.

Staff: Mr. E.M. Cossou continued to serve as District Commissioner until March 7th, when he was transferred on promotion to the post of Deputy Commissioner of Local Government and replaced by Mr. C.J.E. Barker, District Commissioner, who was transferred in June to the Mazaruni-Potaro District. Mr. F.B. Green, Assistant District Commissioner, assumed duty as Acting District Commissioner in June and continued to function in this capacity until he was posted to Acquero (North West Amerindian District) in September. He was replaced by Mr. C. Mc A. Ashley, Acting District Commissioner.

Visits: In addition to the Minister of Home Affairs and his party, and the Minister of Communications who, with Mr. N.L. Franker, Principal Assistant Secretary, and Mr. J.I. Fraser, Chief Social Development Officer (formerly Commissioner of Co-operatives) visited the district in May in connection with the Wauna Land Settlement Project and the site for the proposed airstrip at Wauna, the following persons visited the district: - Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, and the Private Secretary to the Premier, The Deputy Director of Public Works, the Housing Administrator, Commissioner of Local Government, Commissioner of Police and Assistant Commissioner (Administration), the Director of Posts and Telecommunications and the acting Chief Medical Officer, the Marine Superintendent and the Traffic Manager, Transport and Harbours Department, and the Assistant Director of Agriculture.

Frontier Relations: Border relations between people on the British side and those on the Venezuelan side continued to be cordial. There was a steady, though small, flow of passengers and trade between the two territories.

Amerindian Affairs: Amerindians continued to find employment as wood-cutters and general labourers on farms, as well as with the North West Guiana Mining Co., Ltd. Owing to the general fall in the economy of the district, as a result of the drop in the prices of coffee and citrus, and the falling-off in the demand for building materials outside the district, their position this year has not been a good one economically.

There has recently been a tendency among the Amerindians towards the planting of permanent crops and several acres of coconuts and cocoa have been planted, notably at Sebai and Hobediah. This is a significant and welcome change as it indicates a movement away from planting only what might be regarded as their traditional crop - cassava, and from their traditional method of farming - mainly at subsistence level.

Agriculture: The general pattern of agriculture in the district

remained the same as in previous years with the exception that the planting of permanent crops, such as citrus, cocoa and coconuts, on the hills was being encouraged.

The price offered for coffee was the lowest in several years with the result that much of the crop remained unharvested, farmers contending that it was uneconomical to hire pickers. The position with regard to citrus was much the same and farmers found it unprofitable to harvest their entire crop.

The price for coconuts was an economic one and remained comparatively steady throughout the year. This led to keen interest and the expansion of crop acreage; the distribution of coconut seedlings amounted to over 9,000. Several farmers also showed interest in the planting of cocoa and over 10,000 plants were distributed.

The demonstration vegetable garden at Hosororo was maintained throughout the year and its produce was in great demand by residents. Despite this demand, however, very few persons produced green vegetables for sale, though home gardens were kept.

One of the main problems facing farmers in the district is proper and efficient marketing facilities and during September Dr. E.L. Levie the F.A.O. Agriculture Marketing Economist, accompanied by the Director of Marketing, visited the area to examine the position and also the possibility of establishing a Floating Shop to be operated by the North West Farmers' Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd.

Two soil surveyors attached to the F.A.O. spent a fortnight in the area during October, conducting soil tests in various parts of the district.

Communications: The weekly steamer continued to be operated by the Transport and Harbours Department. During the year the old S.S. "TARPON", which had been employed on the run for very many years, was replaced by the M.V. "LADY NORTHCOTE".

Co-operatives: The year could by no means be called one of achievement. For ten months - from March to December - the Co-operative Department's launch was out of service and the Officer was robbed of much of the mobility necessary for the performance of his work. A start was, however, made with the promotion of a Water Transport Society in the Upper Waini, a Thrift and Credit Society at Port Kaituma and a Consumers' Society at Waramuri, but follow-up work was prevented by the lack of transport. The Agricultural Societies also suffered because visits from the Officer were not sustained. In the case of Hobediah Co-operative Society, progress was retarded because more and more members were taking up individual holdings on the opposite bank of the Aruka. The general economic depression in the area resulted in a marked withdrawal of savings from the Credit Union and Thrift and Credit Society.

Education: The number of schools in the North West District, including Moruca, remained at 28. At the end of the year arrangements were completed for the opening, in January 1963, of two new schools - at Port Kaituma and Matthew's Ridge. The percentage of pupils' attendance showed a slight all-round increase, but there was still much room for improvement, however, more and more pupils have been staying on in school up to and beyond 14 years of age. By the end of the year the larger schools had begun to re-organise into Primary and Post-Primary Departments, in order to provide a form of secondary education in the latter Department.

The Education Officer inspected all the schools in the district and paid many other visits in connection with educational development.

44 pupils passed the Primary School Certificate Examination: the highest number so far in the history of the district.

The principal problems were still -

- (a) the lack of suitably qualified teachers.

- (b) the provision of adequate accommodation for teachers, and
- (c) the difficulty of communication and transportation due to the vastness of the district.

Forests: Timber production for the district totalled 436,189 cu. ft. compared with 498,447 cu. ft. for 1961. Imports from Venezuela totalled 1,912 cu. ft. crabwood. 84,168 cu. ft. dalli was exported to Surinam as compared with 64,406 cu. ft. for the previous year. The production of Mangrove bark was 614,980 lbs. and charcoal 31,960 lbs.

The drop in over-all timber production is more significant than is apparent as a considerable amount of the logs shown as this year's production were cut in 1961. In addition, owing to the system of fringe extraction practised in the past, the present cost of extraction of marketable timber has increased with the distance of the timber stands from the water-ways.

Nine sawmills continued to operate in the district.

Mining

(a) Manganese: Shipment of ore to Trinidad by the Manganese Mines Management Co., Ltd., continued through the year. The quantity of ore shipped amounted to 233,309 long tons as against 193,038 long tons for the previous year, and, in order to lift the increased production, an additional vessel was put on the run from August. This industry continued to provide a much needed source of employment.

(b) Gold: Gold mining continued to provide employment for persons in the district and production showed a slight improvement over the previous year's figure of 832 ozs.

Magisterial and Police:

(a) Magisterial: 12 sittings of the Court were held at Mabaruma, 4 at Matthew's Ridge and 4 at Acquero. Three hundred and thirteen criminal cases and twenty civil matters were heard; there were two preliminary enquiries, one involving murder. There were no inquests. Fines totalling \$2,838.50 were imposed while eleven persons were sentenced to imprisonment.

(b) Police: Police stations continued to be maintained at Mabaruma and Matthew's Ridge with an outpost at Morawhanna. It is considered that an increase in the establishment at Morawhanna is indicated.

Prisons: At the beginning of the year there were no prisoners in custody. There were 24 admissions during the year and 21 releases, leaving 3 persons in prison at the end of the year.

Postal & Telecommunications:

Telecommunications: The District continued to be served by radio-telephone which service remains unsatisfactory in that contact outside the district is limited to the working hours of the Central operator. The introduction of a "scramble" system would provide better security in respect of this service.

Public Works: The programme of work for the year was seriously handicapped, especially in respect of road maintenance and the clearing of rivers, creeks and trails, by the late receipt of expenditure allocations. These just preceded the rainy season and so did not permit of the carrying out of all the proposed works. As a result, works undertaken were all in respect of reconditioning of buildings and maintenance of buildings and roads.

Health: Facilities for medical treatment were provided by the Public Hospital at Mabaruma, a Mobile Health Unit, a Health Centre at Morawhanna and a Hospital at Pakera.

At the Public Hospital, where Dr. Dyrting continued as Resident

Surgeon in charge, 21,516 out-patients and 2,130 in-patients received treatment; there were 150 births and 12 deaths.

The Mobile Health Unit continued to do very useful work on its regular monthly visits to all the accessible parts of the district. The Resident Surgeon also paid bi-weekly visits to lower reaches of the Barima, Kaituma, Aruka and Koriah. Weekly Clinics and maternity facilities were provided at the Health Centre at Morarhanna.

The Hospital at Pakera was opened during the year by the African Manganese Mines Management Co., Ltd., to provide medical services for employees of the Company and their families. Among non-employees, cases requiring urgent medical attention are treated. The services of this hospital are provided free of charge.

Dr. B.B.G. Nehaul, Ag. Chief Medical Officer, accompanied by Mr. E.K. Melby, American Consul General, and Dr. Henry Gelfand of the U.S. Public Health Services, paid a brief visit on 29th December in connection with the Anti-Polio campaign.

The Malaria Eradication Programme this year included the taking of mass blood smears for laboratory testing in Georgetown and the exclusive sale of Chloroquinised salt in the district. The tests disclosed not a single case of malaria and it is encouraging to report that throughout the year there were no reported incidents of malaria. This appears to be directly attributable to the present programme.

A few cases of a peculiar skin lesion, localised in exposed portions of the body, have appeared among residents and it has now been established that its appearance is connected with the use of Chloroquinised salt.

No Dental Officer visited the district during the year. No other specialist service is provided.

Revenue: Revenue collected at the Sub-Treasury, Mabaruma, totalled \$31,513.18 compared with \$30,461.78 and \$27,635.80 in 1961 and 1962, respectively. The Sub-Treasury handled a total volume of business amounting to \$768,540.55.

NORTH WEST AMERINDIAN DISTRICT:

The administrative headquarters of the district which is situated at Acquero on the Moruca River was under the charge of an Assistant District Commissioner.

Staff: Mr. H. Turner, District Field Officer, took over the District from Mr. W. Seggar, Asst. District Commissioner, in July and was in turn replaced by Mr. F.B. Green, Asst. District Commissioner in October.

Visits: In addition to the Minister of Home Affairs and his party, who visited Santa Rosa and Waramuri, visitors included parties from the East Anglian Regiment and the Coldstream Guards.

Tours of the District were somewhat irregular due to the change over of Officers. Visits were also made to the Akawini Creek. As this area is outside the North West Amerindian District, a decision is needed as to whether it should be administered by this officer.

Amerindian Affairs:

(a) Local Government: The Santa Rosa Area Council continued to make progress. The period of appointment of most members came to an end in August. Elections have since been held and new appointments are awaited. The payment of taxes was extremely poor and steps are being taken to prosecute defaulters.

Committees at St. Monica, Wakapoa and Hymaracabra continued in office, though the last named was not active; new elections were held there, however, and it is hoped the Committee will function again. Elections were also held at Wakapoa, and the change-over to a Village Council is eagerly awaited.

Recommendations for alterations to the boundaries of the Santa Rosa area and the declaration of the boundaries of the Wakapoa area have been submitted for consideration and it is hoped that approval will be obtained early in 1963.

(b) Development: The Kumaka-Kwebanna Scheme continued and by year end it was possible to travel by Land Rover 19 miles from Kumaka to within 3 miles of Kwebanna. Most of the inhabitants of Kwebanna have taken up permanent residence on the lots between 18 - 21 Mile and the removal of the Kwebanna school back along the road to a more central point is receiving active consideration. Several families from the Manawarin area have also settled along the road and some of the Barama Caribs who visited the scheme showed an interest in settling there.

Men from the Hymaracabra have started to cut a road from the creek-head to join the main road, in order to take up lots there. This branch road will come out near 7 mile and lots there have been temporarily reserved for them.

(c) General: Following the February disturbances, there has been a tendency for Amerindians to withdraw into their communities and await developments. There was a rush to take out Registration Certificate under the Amerindian Ordinance, Chapter 58.

Agriculture: Clearing of the farms along the Kumaka-Kwebanna road made good progress during the year. Two farmers successfully cultivated a trial crop of peanuts and, as a result, others are likely to introduce this crop.

Copra continued to be the principal product and approximately 62,000 lbs. were produced. The coffee crop was good, but poor prices resulted in little being harvested for sale.

Communications: Landing Pools: A few landings were made in the Manawarin Pool, but this is costly to keep open. It has been suggested that, when the road is completed, landings be made at Kwebanna on the Waini River where conditions are very suitable.

Co-operatives: The Moruca Producers' Society is not fulfilling its role in the community, partly due to the attitude of its members and partly to the lack of supervision by the Co-op Officer, with headquarters at Mabaruma, who was without transport for the greater part of the year. There has been no audit and, therefore, no bonuses paid for two years in any of the Societies and this has resulted in many members withdrawing from them.

The Waramuri Society, tired of waiting, went ahead and opened its shop on its own.

Dr. Levi of the F.A.O. visited the district in December and held discussions with the Producers' Co-op.

Education: The posting of non-Amerindian teachers to Santa Rosa school caused considerable adverse comment and there was a boycott of the school for about a week. Housing for these teachers, and those at Waramuri, continued to pose a problem.

The school in the upper Wakapoa now has an enrolment of 65, which shows the need which it is meeting. A similar school would be welcome in the Hymaracabra area, where the children have to leave home very early, sometimes as early as 4.30 a.m., in order to reach Waramuri in time.

Health: The general health in the district was good and the population continued to increase. More and more use is being made of the Health Centre at Acquero, particularly in maternity cases, of which there were 72 during the year. The small Health Centre erected by self-help at Wakapoa, where the services of a Medical Orderly are provided, proved a boon to the residents.

The B.C.G. Campaign continued during the year. There were no cases of polio in the district.

Housing is badly needed for the Medical Orderlies at Acquero.

The rapid change-over of Dispensers was not in the best interests of the district; there were 10 postings during the year.

Forests & Lands:

(a) Forests: It has been confirmed that a very good stand of greenheart exists between the head of the Manawarin River and the road. The exploitation of this will give a boost to the economy of the district and encourage further settlement along the road.

(b) Lands: The question of title to holdings in the district, which has been under consideration for some time, continued to be raised at Council and Committee meetings.

Police: The need for regular policing of the area continued to be evident, but, despite repeated requests, this has not been forthcoming. Over the years, names have been submitted for appointment as Rural Constables, but to date none has been made.

Public Works:

(a) Rivers: Cleaning of the Moruca River continued to pose a problem as little except clearing 'stops-off' could be done with available funds. Clearing of the Wakapoa is now the responsibility of this Department's officer in the district who also undertakes supervision of the contractor's work in the Akawini. The continuation of the latter will depend on the decision on the administration of the area.

(b) Buildings: Reconditioning was done on the Dispenser's quarters, but funds did not permit of painting; limited funds also prevented other works being carried out.

Labour: Work on the Kumaka-Kwebanna road provided welcome employment, which was dictated as far as possible. The usual parties worked with the Geological Survey Department in the Field, while others sought employment with farmers in the Pomeroun area, as wood-cutters, etc.

Social Assistance: The disruption, resulting from the frequent change of Dispensers, a part of whose duties this is, was reflected in irregular payments being made. This caused considerable distress in some cases.

Postal & Telecommunications:

(a) Postal: These services were not satisfactory and better arrangements are needed.

The Controller of Posts paid a visit to see on the spot conditions.

(b) Telecommunications: The Interior Department continued to operate a radiophone service.

MAZARUNI-POTARO DISTRICT

Bartica, which is the Administrative Headquarters of the District, remained the chief centre of activity. It was formerly the entrepot for the considerable mining activity in the area, but, with the development of direct air transport services to the mining areas from Georgetown, its importance has diminished considerably. As a result, there has been a fair measure of unemployment and one of the main problems of the Administration has been to discover what could be done to help from an economic point of view.

The main settlements outside of Bartica were in the mining areas of the Potaro and Mazaruni Rivers - Mahdia and Konawaruk (on the Potaro); Issano, Enachu, Eping, West and East Kurupung (on the Mazaruni). In these centres the principal occupation was mining but agricultural pursuits have been developed and continue to be carried out at Mahdia and Enachu. This latter fact is of some importance, since with the decline in mining activity, it would be an advantage if miners could be encouraged to stay on in the district as farmers, rather than drift back to the Coast to swell the ranks of the unemployed there.

Finally, there were two important settlements at Winiperu on the Essequibo, where the C.D.C. carried on a wood-cutting grant, and at Kaow Island at the mouth of the Mazaruni, which is a sawmilling centre. The Cuyuni remained sparsely populated, with mining activity spread here and there over its vast length.

Staff: Mr. F.B. Green, Assistant District Commissioner, who had been acting as District Commissioner, was succeeded by Mr. C.J.E. Barker, District Commissioner, in June, and in July Mr. P.R.M. Hughes replaced Mr. R.G. Prasad as Assistant District Commissioner.

Visits: In addition to the Governor's Deputy and various Ministers of the Government, other visitors to the District included the Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works & Hydraulics; Permanent Secretaries to the Ministries of Works & Hydraulics, Education and Social Development; the Commissioner of Police; ag. Chief Medical Officer; ag. Director of Public Works; Conservator of Forests; Director of Geological Surveys and Director of Prisons.

Frontier Relations: In spite of the Venezuelan claim to British Guianese territory, relations remained good. In the Upper Potaro and Cuyuni areas a number of Venezuelans and Brazilians were engaged in diving operations for diamonds; many of these had no permits to enter the country and it might be as well to take some firm action in this matter.

Amerindian Affairs: The Amerindian hostel at Bartica continued in use during the year and 370 people stayed there. This hostel has proved of great benefit to the Amerindians who are continually on the move from place to place. Several Amerindians (mainly from the North West District) were employed with geological survey parties in the Cuyuni area, while a number of others found employment in maintenance gangs at 72 Miles, Bartica-Potaro road. Other than at these places, Amerindians remained scattered throughout the district, barely eking out an existence. The plight of those in the Tumatumari area, where B.G. Consolidated Goldfields Ltd. have ceased operations, is particularly noticeable. It is hoped that, with the schooling now being provided, the younger generation will fare better.

Agriculture: The general pattern of agriculture in the District changed very little during the year. The main centres of activity were Bartica and environs, the Mahdia valley and the Enachu area.

The acreage under ground provisions and green vegetables in the Bartica area increased slightly but it was still not sufficient to satisfy the needs of the village, and much of this produce continued to be obtained from the lower Essequibo River area. The use of artificial fertilisers and insecticides was maintained at a reasonable level and paid good dividends.

Cultivation of citrus expanded during 1962, and a particularly heavy

crop was reaped during the first quarter of the year. Returns from the cultivation of tobacco were, however, disappointing, averaging about 300 lbs. of plug tobacco per acre.

Livestock farming was concentrated in Bartica and environs together with small efforts in the Mahdia and Enachu areas. Milk production increased, but that of beef was still below normal requirements for the District. The development of the Mahdia Valley on a large scale as a livestock farming area merits serious thought.

The Agricultural Field Assistant stationed at 1½ Miles, Bartica-Potaro road, was handicapped by lack of transport and, consequently, was unable to visit the Mazaruni area during the year and visited the Potaro area only on two occasions. The Deputy Director of Agriculture visited Bartica twice, and on one of these tours visited the Potaro area.

During the year, soil surveyors sponsored by the United Nations, carried out surveys in the Lower Cuyuni River and Mahdia areas.

Communications: The Transport and Harbours Department maintained its weekly steamer service between Georgetown and Bartica and private launch services (catering for both passengers and cargo) were operated on the rivers in the area as follows:-

- Mazaruni - between Issano and Apaiqa
- Potaro - between Kangaruma and Tukeit
- Lower Cuyuni - to Camaria
- Upper Cuyuni - above Camaria

There were no serious accidents on any of these services.

The Transport and Harbours Department road services to Issano, Mahdia and Tumatumari were maintained by a fleet of ten diesel lorries; this is an essential means of travelling to the small prospector (pork-knocker). These vehicles covered 86,527 miles carrying 6,444 passengers and 1,587 tons of cargo.

British Guiana Airways (Govt.) altered their schedule to provide one additional flight between Georgetown and Bartica each week. The thrice weekly charter flight to Tumareng, with extensions to Two Mouth, continued to be a popular means of ferrying machinery, cargo and passengers to the Mazaruni area.

Customs: The Clerk of the District Commissioner's office who was performing the duties of Customs Officer was transferred in July, and the burden fell on the remaining Class 1 Clerk. His duties were confined to Bartica where he issued 56,505 glns. duty free and 47,999 glns. duty paid gasoline, 91,137 glns. gas oil and 59,674 glns. kerosene; he also examined packages received at the Post Office and dealt with excise matters.

Education: The number of primary schools in the district remained at ten, with the two at Bartica by far the largest. The Anglican School at Bartica is overcrowded, catering for over 800 pupils, and serious consideration will need to be given to the problem soon.

Efforts to establish a school at Issano had not been finalised at the end of the year; the difficulty was to find a suitable site.

One of the most outstanding achievements was the establishment and opening in January of a secondary school at Bartica. This filled a long-felt need, and by the end of the year enrolment had nearly doubled. It is a project which is bound to succeed, provided good teachers can be obtained, as it will save residents the trouble and expense of having to educate their children in Georgetown. The local Secondary School Committee is to be congratulated on the fine job it is doing in the management of the school.

The Education Officer, Essequibo, visited the District in June, and again in November, and carried out inspections. During the latter visit, a

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seminar was held for school teachers in the Bartica area. These seminars serve an excellent purpose but more trained teachers will have to be provided if the standard of education throughout the District is to be raised.

Forests: The main logging activity was concentrated on the extraction of greenheart. A total of 3,257,278 cubic feet of timber of all classes, including 2,722,641 cubic feet of greenheart, was extracted, as compared with corresponding figures of 2,806,137 and 2,441,577 cubic feet for 1961.

As far as silviculture was concerned, 48.5 additional acres of caribbean pine were established, the research plot at Winiperu was measured, and observations made of treatment undertaken in 1961. An enumeration survey was carried out by the forest Survey section of an area on the right bank Takutu, left bank Mazaruni River.

Several visits were paid to the District by the Conservator of Forests and other officers of the Forest Department.

Geological Survey: The Resident Geologist was transferred from Bartica in August and had not been replaced at the end of the year. Geological survey parties worked in the Lower and Middle Cuyuni. Five acres of anomalous soil copper were located in the Haimaralli section of the Cuyuni; drilling on the best of these areas commenced late in the year and will continue in 1963. Surveys were also undertaken in the Merume River area, Mazaruni District.

Mining: The principal operations in this sphere continued to be concentrated in the Mazaruni and Potaro areas, with some workings in the Cuyuni River.

(a) Gold: Production continued to fluctuate, and the total for the District was 966 ounces; this compares with 940 ounces for 1961. It appears reasonable to assume that activity in this sphere depends to some extent on activity in the diamond fields - when "shouts" occur in the latter, gold production diminishes because of the rush of pork-knockers to take advantage of the relatively easier operation of diamond hunting. It is encouraging to report that a group of Americans have recommenced operations (formerly carried out by the El Dorado Gold Mining Company) in the Kaburi River area, 9 miles along the Issano Branch Road.

(b) Diamonds: The Kurupung area was again the main centre of activity, and in the last quarter of the year there was an important "shout" in the Seroun River, where over 300 pork-knockers were concentrated. On the other hand, the Ekereku area which had been so promising at the beginning of the year rapidly lost its importance and there was scarcely one crew operating there at year end.

Diamond production fell to 98,603.54 metric carats from 111,011.92 in 1961.

(c) Quarrying: The main quarries maintained production throughout the year, supplying stone to the Government Stone Crushing Plant at Makouria.

Health: The Public Hospital in Bartica provided facilities for the treatment of all but the most serious cases, which were referred to Georgetown. A Resident Surgeon was stationed at Bartica, assisted by a Dispenser, Steward and appropriate nursing staff. The Resident Surgeon paid bi-weekly visits to the Mazaruni Prison where a Dispenser was also stationed. Births at the Bartica Hospital totalled 268 and deaths 42; 1,071 in-patients and 8,483 out-patients were treated. This compares with 276 births and 59 deaths, 972 in-patients and 9,005 out-patients in 1961.

Apart from the Public Hospital, Bartica, facilities for the treatment of simple complaints were available at Mahdia on the Potaro and Enachu on the Mazaruni River, where dispensers were stationed. The dispenser at Mahdia paid regular monthly visits to Tumatumari, 72 Miles Bartica-Potaro Road and Issano. The dispenser at Enachu covered Kurupung, Apaiqua, Eping and Oranapai as well,

but, at the end of the year, with the mining population in the Kurupung area on the increase, there appeared to be need for an additional person to cover that area alone. A dispensary was also maintained by British Guiana Timbers Ltd. at Winiperu on the Essequibo.

The anti-polio campaign was inaugurated in Bartica on 29th December, when the Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Gelfand (of the U.S. Medical Mission) visited and demonstrated how the vaccine should be administered. In all 1,208 children in the District received vaccine, but, unaccountably, the children in the Issano area have been completely overlooked.

Labour: An unusually large number of persons came from Georgetown in the hope of securing employment at Bartica but, due to the prevailing economic conditions, many of them were disappointed and found themselves stranded. Attempts to obtain employment on the Parika-Bartica road project at Makouria also had little success as work on that road slowed considerably during the last quarter of the year.

A number of labourers were employed at stone quarries and timber grants near Bartica, but several who had been employed on the Bartica-Potaro road development project were laid off due to lack of funds.

The establishment of a Labour Exchange at Bartica was again raised by the Village Council, which considered that such a move would ensure residents being given first choice in employment situations. However, the real solution to that problem is the raising of the educational standard and the provision of more educational facilities at Bartica, in order to produce the skills that are required for most of the jobs for which people from outside the district are selected. This improvement will accrue in time, meanwhile, the present arrangement, whereby labourers (through the District Commissioner's office at Bartica) register with the Employment Exchange at Anna Regina, is working satisfactorily.

Magisterial and Police:

(a) Magisterial: The District Commissioner as Travelling Magistrate presided over the quarterly sittings at Tumatumari, Mahdia, Issano, Enachu and Kurupung and disposed of 244 criminal cases and 12 civil cases, and imposed fines totalling \$2,271.50. In addition, an Inquest was held at Kamarang.

Courts were held monthly at Bartica by a visiting Magistrate.

(b) Police: At the beginning of the year, Police Stations were located at Bartica, Tumatumari, Mahdia, Issano, Enachu and Kurupung, with out-posts at Two Mouth (Kurupung) and Ekereku. During the year, Tumatumari Station was closed and the constable transferred to Orinduik in the Rupununi District. With the decrease in mining activity, Ekereku out-post was also closed and the constable transferred to Kamarang, where an out-post was established.

The mobility of the Police in this District was hampered by lack of adequate road transport.

Postal and Telecommunications: Post Offices were maintained at Bartica, Mahdia and Enachu, while there were 10 Postal Agencies operating at various other points in the District.

Radiophone services were maintained at Mahdia, Enachu and Issano.

Public Works:

(a) Buildings: Seventeen buildings were re-conditioned during the year. In addition, living quarters were constructed for the employees at Makouria, and the Rest House at Kangaruma as well as a tourist cabin at Tukeit were completed.

(b) Roads: The development work on the Bartica-Road ceased in August, the machines and other equipment were shipped away and the Resident Engineer transferred. Up to that point the road had been sealed as far as

21 Miles. Meanwhile, the section from 1 - 1½ Miles had begun to show signs of wear, and its maintenance, without adequate equipment, will prove a problem for the Maintenance Superintendent. Officials of the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics inspected the road during the year.

Revenue: Revenue was collected at the Office of the District Commissioner and by the Sub-Wardens at Mehdiya and Enachu.

Regional Development: The term of appointment of the 1960 -62 Regional Development Committee came to an end in February, but new appointments were not made until September and only one meeting of the new Committee was possible before the end of the year. In December, the Minister of Education and Social Development held discussions with the Committee.

The Committee has been extended to include persons living at Enachu and Kurupung, but as the cost of travel to Bartica from those areas is prohibitive, its functioning will have to be carefully worked out.

Tourism: Internal tourism received a boost in 1962 with the interest displayed by Government in its promotion, and this district with its many natural attractions received a considerable amount of attention. A local tourist committee which was formed late in 1961 held several meetings and submitted suggestions to Government. The Minister of Trade and Industry visited Bartica in February and held discussions with the committee. The Tourist Manager paid two visits: in May, when he toured the lower Mazaruni area, and in September, when he toured Kaieteur.

At Kangaruma a new and spacious building was completed to cater for the tourist traffic to Kaieteur and at Tukeit at the foot of the hill leading to the Falls, a tourist cabin and ablutions block were erected. There is need, however, for two other tourist cabins at Tukeit before the number of people who might be expected to visit can be accommodated satisfactorily.

UPPER MAZARUNI AMERINDIAN DISTRICT:

The administrative headquarters of the district is situated at Kamarang and is in charge of an Assistant District Commissioner.

Staff: Mr. R.G. Prasad, Assistant District Commissioner, succeeded Mr. P.R.M. Hughes, Assistant District Commissioner, on 4th July.

Visits: In addition to the Minister of Home Affairs and his party, other visitors to the District included the Geophysicist/Hydrologist and the Well-driller attached to the Pure Water Supply Department, the Inspector of Mines, and Dr. Gross of the United Nations who was accompanied by officials of the Geological Survey Department.

The Assistant District Commissioner made tours of all the major settlements in the Amerindian District. In addition, visits were paid to the following places outside the Amerindian District: Ekereku, Kaikan (Wenamu), the upper Meamu, Chinawing, Arawai and Peima Falls.

Amerindian Affairs:

(a) Local Government: Village Council meetings were held regularly at Waramadong and occasionally at Paruima, Jawalla and Pilipai.

During August, at the suggestion of the Captain of Jawalla, a captains' meeting was held at Paruima. This was strictly an Amerindian affair and no officer of the Government was present. After the meeting the four captains toured the other three villages - Waramadong, Jawalla and Pilipai. At Kamarang they met the Assistant District Commissioner informally at his house.

(b) Village Shops: Two village shops were established by the Councils of Waramadong and Jawalla. In December the Waramadong shop was bought over by the village captain. The Jawalla shop is making satisfactory progress.

(c) Produce: Produce was principally handled by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Paruima. A small quantity of peanuts and red beans was handled by the Kamarang Trade Store. The Trade Store is no longer buying produce outright and re-selling in Georgetown; it now arranges the sale and collects a small percentage, and, as a result, bears no loss due to spoilage.

Agriculture: The pasture at Kamarang was extended and sheep and cattle which had been farmed out to the villages were brought back. At year end there were 76 sheep and 4 head of cattle at pasture.

Nine of the Agricultural plots at Paruima were given out for rotation crops. At year end a check showed that seven had been abandoned and, although some black-eye was planted on the remaining two, the rotation system had been discarded.

Good crops of peanuts and red beans were reaped at Paruima and at year end all the village agricultural land had been ploughed for planting.

During November the head of the Pilipai Mission attended a course at the Agricultural Research Station at Mon Repos.

Communications: Although there is no scheduled air service to Kamarang, there are two regular weekly charters - one on Wednesday by the Interior Department and the other on Saturdays by a private trader.

There are two Dakota strips - at Kamarang and Imbaimadai - and fourteen light airplane strips in the District. Flights are now being made to Imbaimadai with some regularity. A B.G. Airways transmitter has been installed there and the agent transmits a daily weather report.

Development: The Kamarang - Waramadong road was cleared to the 10½ mile point; work ceased in May when funds ran out. During October, the people of Waramadong completed the remaining section of the road as a tractor trail by self-help.

Education: The Kamarang Government School was without a head-teacher during the Christmas term. The Primary School Certificate Examination was held at Kamarang for the first time in July. Ten pupils wrote the examination but none was successful.

There are four Mission Schools in this area, with a total enrolment of 407.

Frontiers: One visit was made in late July to the Venezuelan frontier. On the way along the Paruima - Wenamu Trail a number of aluminium buildings were observed on the Venezuelan side. It is reported that work on the Eldorado - Santa Elena section of the Pan-American Highway has been resumed. No visit was made to the Brazilian frontier. Indians from the Kwatin area in Venezuela paid regular visits to Pilipai.

Health: The sick-bay at Kamarang is usually staffed by a Dispenser and Nurse-Midwife but was without the services of the latter from 14th October to the end of the year. 1,904 out-patients and 97 in-patients received treatment; there were 20 births and 1 death. Nine patients were transferred to the Georgetown Hospital for treatment.

Mining: The Assistant District Commissioner who is a Sub-Warden of Mining Districts 3 (Mazaruni) and 4 (Cuyuni) made four tours on behalf of the Lands and Mines Department. Two cease orders were issued - one by the Commissioner of Lands & Mines, and the other by the Assistant District Commissioner.

The Assistant District Commissioner now sells, by tender at Kamarang to licensed traders, gold and diamonds won by Amerindians.

Kamarang continued to be the port of entry for pork-knockers on their way to Ekereku, Kowalma and the Upper Meamu, and with its limited facilities is favoured as a resting and gathering point by many pork-knocker crews. These take full advantage of the lower prices at the Kamarang Trade Store.

Missions: A new member of the Anglican Missionary Body arrived in the district in August. He is an agricultural student and is stationed at Jawalla; his duties are to teach and to help the Amerindians become better farmers.

The Seventh Day Adventist Mission is running at Paruima a training school for the older boys and girls at which agriculture, carpentry and domestic science are the main subjects taught.

Magisterial & Police:

(a) Magisterial: The District Commissioner, Mazaruni-Potaro District, as Travelling Magistrate, held court at Kamarang on two occasions. An inquest was held in May.

(b) Police: At the beginning of the year one policeman was stationed at Kamarang and two at Ekereku. The police out-post at Ekereku was closed at the end of July and the constables transferred to Kamarang. Regular patrols were made to Ekereku and Imbaimadai. It has been suggested that the strength of the police in the district be increased to four so that two could be stationed at Imbaimadai, which has an estimated pork-knocker population of 300.

Public Works : Buildings: Quarters for one of the junior officers were completed. Some reconditioning was done to the Assistant District Commissioner's house and minor maintenance work done on other buildings. Gutters and water -drums were provided for some houses.

Telecommunications: Radiophone services were maintained at Kamarang, Pilipai and Paruima.

Trade Store: A new and larger building was provided to house the Trade Store at Kamarang. The year's sales totalled \$102,226.29.

OREALLA AND EPIRA AMERINDIAN DISTRICTS:

The administrative headquarters is situated at Orealla on the Corentyne River and is under charge of a District Officer.

Regular visits were made to the Siparuta Mission in the Epira district.

Staff: Mr. L.E. Jekir, Class 1 Officer, continued in office as District Officer throughout the year.

Visits: The Minister of Home Affairs and party visited the District, as did the Assistant District Commissioner, Springlands, who paid two routine visits - in March/April and August.

Frontier Relations: The Commissaris of Nickerie, accompanied by his Secretary, paid a visit to the District in March. Relations with the Surinam Forestry and Police officials in the river continued to be cordial.

Local Government: Elections for Councillors were held in February; the Council had been formerly established with a Chairman and twelve members. Meetings during the year were poorly attended.

Agriculture: The Agricultural Field Assistant paid three visits during the year. As a result of the award of a bonus to a farmer in the area, there was increased interest in coconut cultivation and 600 seedlings were supplied to the District Officer for resale to the Amerindians. Orange and dwarf coconut seedlings and a quantity of insecticides and fertilisers were also supplied through the Agriculture Department. The supply of insecticides was a boon as the Acoushi ants were and still are a problem. Farms were sprayed by the Field Assistant and the District Officer in an effort to control these pests.

A start has been made in pig-rearing with the purchase of two pairs of Large White piglets by farmers of the District.

Small scale cultivation of a hill type rice was successful enough to supply home requirements.

Agriculture in the area still consists mainly of subsistence crops, and there is need for regular monthly visits by the Agricultural Field Assistant to encourage and advise on the establishment of permanent and catch crops and livestock rearing.

Community Development - Self-help schemes:

(a) Communal Cattle Grazing Area: This scheme was completed during the early part of the year.

(b) Construction of nine permanent houses: Work on two of the nine houses continued intermittently during the year. All materials are now either used up or rotted. An effort was made late in the year to get members together to prepare a revised estimate of the scheme but most of them were away logging. It is hoped to hold this meeting early in 1963.

Co-operatives: The business of the Orealla Consumers' Co-operative is at a standstill. Repeated requests for a visit by the Co-operative Officer have been unsuccessful; the last visit by an Officer being in June 1961. It has been recommended that the matter be investigated in order to establish whether this is a case where the Commissioner of Co-operatives should assume control of the affairs of the Society in terms of Regulation 56(2) of the Ordinance.

Education: A new Government School was opened at Orealla on 12th June and as a result the Orealla Anglican School was closed. The School has an enrolment of 182 children and an average attendance of 142. There were 25 admissions and 30 withdrawals during the year.

Resignations during the year have reduced the staff to a Head-teacher and an unqualified assistant assisted by two unqualified interim teachers. Difficulty is being experienced in obtaining suitably qualified teachers as there is no accommodation for them and also because few teachers are willing to serve in the Interior.

The Education Officer paid a visit of inspection to the school in November.

Forests: Small scale balata bleeding was done during the year but logging continued to be the main economic activity, the men either felling and selling logs to the saw-millers on their own behalf or working on the timber concessions of others. Mechanised means of extraction, made available by persons from the coast, have been of great assistance to loggers in the District but the varying fees being asked for the use of the equipment are causing some discontent.

The Divisional Forest Officer for the Berbice area and the Forest Inspector made familiarisation tours of the District during the year.

Land Development: At the request of the Commissioner of Interior a Government Surveyor resurveyed the upper and lower boundaries of the Amerindian district, the licence of occupancy held by the Anglican Church and made a survey of the present occupation. It was also intended that he should lay out 10 acre agricultural lots along the river frontage but this, it is understood, has been deferred to 1963.

Medical: The Dispenser, who is a part-time Government employee, paid monthly visits and treated 403 out-patients. The Nurse-Midwife who is stationed at Orealla treated 1,763 patients. The Nursing Service was, however, temporarily discontinued in December due to a shortage of trained staff. Attendance at ante-natal and child welfare clinics was disappointing.

There is urgent need for a Maternity Centre as deliveries under present conditions are unsatisfactory.

No visit was made by a Doctor or Dental Officer during the year. The Public Health Inspector visited quarterly and the Health Visitor on alternate months.

Police: One Amerindian from Orealla was accepted for training at the Police Training School and has since been admitted to the Force.

Public Works: The District Engineer for the Berbice area accompanied by an overseer inspected and handed over the new school building to representatives of the Education Department in January. Minor works were done to the building during the year.

Communications: With the exception of a fortnightly mail boat which also takes passengers, the District, which is entirely dependent on river transport, has no scheduled passenger or cargo service. Transportation between the District and the Coast, a distance of about 50 miles, by such river craft as are available, is irregular, inconvenient and unreliable.

Work on clearing and levelling the site of a light airplane strip was started in August but had to be discontinued in October because of the lack of machinery.

Postal and Telecommunications:

(a) Postal: The District is served by a fortnightly mail service in the form of a Travelling Postal Agency.

(b) Telecommunications: With the exception of a break from the 28th January to 28th February, when station VP3OR was off the air, radio-telephone communication was available at the office.

Revision of Electoral Register: The District Officer performed the duties of Electoral Registrar in connection with the revision of the Lists of Voters for the No. 1 Corentyne River constituency.

Social Assistance: Old age pensions and public assistance payments for the District and Siparuta were made by the District Officer.

Miscellaneous: A party of twelve Amerindians from the District took part in an Exhibition held at Port Mourant on the 9th February on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

I should like to record my thanks to the entire staff for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

E. M. COSSOU
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E.M. COSSOU
Commissioner of the Interior.
January, 1964.

H.A. INT: 1/7(V11)

EMC/BHK.