



British Guiana.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE INTERIOR
FOR THE YEAR
1961.

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA, BRITISH GUIANA.

1962.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS,
6, Brickdam, Georgetown,
British Guiana.

4th July, 1962.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit hereunder my report on the administration of the Districts in the Interior for the year 1961.

The Department of the Interior is responsible 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 12,025; the Rupununi District with an area of 37,380 square miles and a population of 10,043; and the North West District with an area of 8,507 square miles and a population of 12,733. The Department is also responsible for Amerindian Affairs throughout the Colony. A District Commissioner is in charge of each District. Owing to the difficulties of communication with the 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 Orealla Amerindian District in the Coastal Area.

ADMINISTRATION

The Minister of Home Affairs was charged with the responsibility for the Department of the Interior with effect from the 6th September, 1961, and the Department moved into the Ministry of Home Affairs' Building on the same day. Formerly, the Chief Secretary was charged with the responsibility for the Department.

STAFF

Mr. J.B. Bamford continued in office as Commissioner of the Interior throughout the year.

The Departmental establishment was made up of three District Commissioners, five Assistant District Commissioners, an Administrative Assistant, six District Field Officers, nine Clerks and three Typist Clerks together with various subordinate posts. To adequately cover such a large area with 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.

Rupununi District: Mr. A.A.M. Learmond succeeded Mr. N.L. Franker as District Commissioner on the 18th September and Mr. P.R. Hughes, Assistant District Commissioner left the District on transfer on the 25th August.

North West District: Mr. C.J.E. Barker continued to act as District Commissioner until the 4th July when he was succeeded by Mr. E.M. Cossou.

Mazaruni-Potaro District: Mr. F.B. Green, Assistant District Commissioner succeeded Mr. A.A.M. Learmond, District Commissioner on 12th September. Mr. F.C.R. Giles, Assistant District Commissioner was seconded to the Post and Telecommunications Department in February and was subsequently transferred to that Department.

.... /Upper Mazaruni

The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs,
6, Brickdam, Georgetown,
British Guiana.

Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District: Mr. P.R. Hughes, Assistant District Commissioner succeeded Mr. W.H. Seggar, Assistant District Commissioner on the 28th August.

North West Amerindian District: Mr. F.B. Green, Assistant District Commissioner succeeded Mr. R.G. Prasad, Class I Clerk on 24th May and Mr. W.H. Seggar, Assistant District Commissioner succeeded Mr. Green on the 6th September.

Orealla Amerindian District: Mr. L.E. Jekir, Class I Clerk was posted as Officer-in-Charge on the 10th May, 1961.

Visits by His Excellency the Governor

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Ralph Grey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., visited the Rupununi District from the 9th to 17th January and Orealla on the 27th March. On both visits he was accompanied by the Commissioner of the Interior.

Visits by the Minister of Home Affairs

The Minister of Home Affairs, the Hon. B.S. Rai, visited the Rupununi District from the 17th to 21st of November. He was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. J.S. Douglas and the Commissioner of the Interior.

The Commissioner of the Interior also made two visits to the Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District, one to the North West District, two to the North West Amerindian District, three to the Mazaruni-Potaro District and two to St. Francis Mission, Mahaicony River.

The District Commissioners and Officers posted in the Districts made regular tours of their respective Districts.

FRONTIER RELATIONS

The cordial relationship between residents on the country's borders with Brazil and Venezuela was maintained throughout the year. As a result of the devaluation of the Bolivar, however, there was a considerable reduction in the movement of people between Venezuela and British Guiana.

A large party of Economists and other Technical Government Officers from Rio de Janeiro, who were touring the Rio Branco territory, paid a flying visit to Lethem. They took the opportunity to hold discussions with the Minister of Home Affairs who happened to be visiting Lethem at the time. Discussions were also held with District Officers.

AMERINDIAN AFFAIRS

It is estimated that the Amerindians now number between 25,000 and 30,000; they range from the primitive to the civilised and are thinly distributed, living mostly in places to which access is difficult and costly. It is the policy of Government to help them to advance to a stage where they will be able to take their place with other groups in the general life of the Community but the Administration is hampered in its efforts to implement this policy because of limitations in Staff and funds. There are, also, large numbers of Amerindians who are content to continue their traditional way of life and show little enthusiasm for change; to provide improvements, therefore, requires a careful approach and sustained effort. Consequently, the task of weaning the Amerindian from direct rule to local authority may well prove longer than had been anticipated.

The problem of the rights of the Amerindians in respect of land, and amendments to existing legislation are still under consideration. The basis of their future progress depends largely

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on their rights in respect of land.

Trade Stores: The trade stores at Lethem, Aishalton and Karasabai in the Rupununi District continued to render satisfactory service to the District. The cash takings of the stores totalled \$121,180.63, of which \$7,969.20 and \$10,395.91 were collected from the branch stores at Aishalton and Karasabai, respectively. There were no new shops of any consequence in the District but preliminary arrangements were being made by the Village Council at Annai to establish a shop. The shop operated at Sand Creek by a group of Villagers continued to be successful. Cash takings at the Kamarang Trade Store in the Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District totalled \$61,309.00 as against \$64,531.71 for the previous year, the decrease being attributable to the establishment of other shops and the advent of hucksters and miners in the area.

Trade: In the Rupununi District, corn and ground provisions found a ready market, but some difficulty was experienced in the sale of tobacco owing to a glut on the market. From September, the Foot and Mouth Epidemic in the District restricted the sale of meat. A comparison of sales of cattle and tobacco, belonging to Amerindians, in the period 1959 - 1961 is as follows:

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Cattle	\$ 23,070.56	\$ 24,122.82	\$ 18,591.43
Tobacco	1,299.60	4,413.85	2,090.30.

Amerindian bleeders accounted for 384,083 lbs. of the 432,832 lbs. of balata produced in the District.

In the Kamarang District, 3,529 lbs. of black eye peas and 962 lbs. of peanuts were purchased from Amerindians and shipped to Georgetown for resale.

Training Centres: A course of instruction in cotton spinning, using a type of machine specially imported from India, began in September at Lethem in the Rupununi District. If successful, trainees are to be sent out as instructors to the surrounding Villages. A tailoring course at Karasabai had to be discontinued on the resignation of the instructor. The adult education class at Lethem was continued and good results were obtained. The general response, however, to these special facilities was somewhat discouraging.

Local Government: Village Councils formally established in terms of the Amerindian Ordinance, Chapter 58, were in operation at Aishalton, Klaurdarnawa, Sand Creek and Annai in the Rupununi District and Santa Rosa in the North West District. Informal councils continued to operate at Achewibi, Awarawaunawa, Maruranawa, and Shea in the Rupununi District; Paruima, Waramadong and Jawalla in the Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District; Wakapau and Haimarakabra in the North West District; Kabacaburi and St. Monica on the Pomeroun River; Orealla on the Corentyne River and St. Francis on the Mahaicony River.

In the Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District the venue of the annual meeting of Captains was changed from Kamarang to Jawalla Village. The meeting was held in December and it was agreed to hold one annually in rotation in one of the four larger Villages. Elections for Captains and Councillors were held at Phillipai, Jawalla, Waramadong and Paruima.

In the Rupununi District, the Fifth Annual Conference of Touchaus (Captains) was held at Annai on 15th November. Nearly all the Touchaus in the District attended, and a wide range of subjects was discussed. Elections were held in December at all the major Villages where there are Touchaus. At some Villages the

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elections were keenly contested and unexpected results obtained. The newly elected Touchaus will serve for a four-year period from 1st January, 1962. The election of official and unofficial Councilors to serve a two-year period from 1st January, 1962, was started but not completed by the end of the year. The Santa Rosa Area Council, in the North West and Upper Pomeroon Amerindian District, held fairly regular fortnightly meetings throughout the year. Elections for Captains for the five areas within the District were carried out without incident.

Water Supplies: In the Rupununi District, the system of inexpensive small wells by water jet boring, advocated by the Geophysicist/Hydrologist, was tried out with varying results. Three wells were laid down at Shulinab, and one at Maruranawa. The installation of windmills, overhead tanks and pipe-lines, as part of the 1960 - 1964 Development Programme, was continued during the year. The improvement of their water supply has made a great contribution to the health and welfare of the residents.

In the Mazaruni-Potaro District, a 100,000 gallon tank was erected, pipe-lines laid and a pump-house built at Bartica to provide adequate fire protection and a piped water supply for the area.

Health: There was an improvement in the general standard of health in the Amerindians in the Rupununi District largely attributable to the use of medicated salt in the campaign against malaria. The same can be said of the North West District where very few cases have been reported. Malaria is, however, still present in both areas and there remains the other scourge, tuberculosis, which seems to be on the increase. The provision of milk for pre-school children would be of great benefit in the fight against these two diseases.

There has been no boat in which the Dispenser could tour the Villages in the Upper Mazaruni District and very few visits were made by him. The Medical Ranger visited some of the outlying areas. The Dispensary at Kamarang is in need of improvement. It has no running water or toilet facilities.

Land Development: The Kumaka-Quebanna Scheme in the North West Amerindian District which is financed mainly from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, consists of the building of 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of roadway from Kumaka on the Moruca River to Quebanna on the Waini River to provide access to 25,000 acres of agricultural land on the main ridge between the Moruca and the Waini Rivers. By year end the road trace had been cleared and surveyed and some four miles of completed single track road made. At the Kumaka and Kamwatta end of the road, 148 ten acre lots had been taken up out of 200 available up to 8 miles and at the Quebanna end, 207 lots out of 284.

In the North West District, a land development scheme known as the "Wauna Project" was launched in August. This scheme commences at the Wauna River, left bank Koriabo, left bank Aruka and takes in initially an area of approximately 1,000 acres. By the end of the year, a great deal of preliminary work had been done and some machinery had arrived for the construction of the road to join the Barima-Wanaina road at Wanaina. The house for the Superintendent at Wauna had also been erected.

Self-Help Schemes: In a number of areas, Amerindians continued to make good use of the assistance furnished through self-help schemes and several projects were successfully completed. Others are still under way.

AGRICULTURE

North West District: The general pattern of agriculture

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in this District has changed little during the past few years. A further drop in the price of coffee, fruit and other farm produce has, however, had a depressing effect. The prices offered are quite uneconomical and unless there is an improvement soon, the plight of the farmers will be very serious indeed. During September there was a meeting at which the Director of Marketing advised farmers of a proposal to establish a Coffee Marketing Board at an early date when coffee would be graded and purchased at fixed prices with a top price of 45¢ per lb. Unfortunately, nothing more has been heard of the proposal and the farmers are even more discouraged.

Mazaruni-Potaro District: Other than around Bartica, and at a few scattered farms in the mining areas, there is not much agricultural activity. The long-awaited appointment of an Agricultural Superintendent for the District, which it is hoped will stimulate more interest in agriculture, was made. Unfortunately, due to a housing shortage, he had to proceed on vacation leave prematurely in September and the District is once again without a Superintendent.

The dry spell in April/May affected both crops and cattle. The supply of ground provisions was short in the first half of the year but the situation improved in the latter half; the production of green vegetables was good. Citrus production is expanding and the supply of other fruit was good. Tobacco to the total of 500 lbs. was reaped and, generally, farmers are responding well to the use of fertilisers.

Production of cattle is far below the level of local requirements but there was a substantial increase in the supply of pork, and poultry rearing continued to expand.

The bonus crop scheme has been accepted with caution and planting is done on an experimental basis.

Rupununi District: Cattle ranching is the main agricultural pursuit and almost everything else revolves around it. Agriculture amongst the Amerindians, who constitute the greater part of the population, is limited to subsistence crops, corn and farine for the cattle industry.

In February, an Officer was posted to the District for extension services among the Amerindians. He has since travelled extensively throughout the District and the response to his efforts, though somewhat slow, has awakened a growing interest in farming, other than in the traditional way. There is need for more than one such Officer. A pilot project in communal farming was started at Nappi and encouraging results have been obtained.

Investigations by the newly appointed Extension Officer have re-emphasised the difficulties of successful economic farming where the farming lands lie at great distances from the Villages. There is need for a survey of suitable farming areas in the District where development work can be fostered and promoted.

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease occurred in August and at the end of the year action was still being taken to control it. All shipments of cattle were suspended and at year end it was not known when they would be resumed.

North West Amerindian District: Coconuts remained the main economic crop of the Moruca and Wakapau areas. Citrus and coffee featured only in the internal economy. 4,250 selected coconut seedlings were distributed by the Agriculture Department and 105 acres of coconuts established. Production of copra in the Santa Rosa and Kamwatta area totalled 91,297 lbs. for the year. How far the incidence of Red Ring disease will affect

copra production is not yet known.

The production of food crops, especially yams and plantains, was increased and 400 banana suckers were distributed from the Agricultural Station. Cultivation of peanuts, dholl, castor and green vegetables was introduced during the year but farmers were very slow in accepting these crops. Vegetables were left entirely to the 4H Club which was formed during the year and now has 46 members. An Achievement Day was held on 15th November. Egg and poultry production has improved as a result of the distribution of 220 R.I.R. chicks and 100 ducks but feeding and husbandry practice are in need of improvement.

Field sanitation and pest control, soil conservation measures, fertilisation and various aspects of crop husbandry were demonstrated during the year. Despite these services, the Amerindian still clings to his non-perennial crops and complains of lack of transport and marketing facilities.

Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District: The Paruima Agriculture Scheme was changed on the recommendation of the Agricultural Officer from providing a pasture to the setting up of individual plots because the land was considered more suitable for teaching Amerindians improved agricultural methods. The area was partly surveyed into 10 acre blocks and given out to farmers. Approximately 5 acres were reserved for an experimental station.

The principal crops grown throughout the year were black-eye peas and peanuts, red beans and shalot, in addition to cassava, their staple diet. Two crops were harvested and the yields were about average. The diamond rush greatly affected planting.

FORESTS

In the North West District another sawmill ceased operation reducing the number operating in the District to eight. Timber production totalled 498,447 cubic feet compared with 494,595 cubic feet in the previous year. Imports from Venezuela totalled 9,931 cubic feet crabwood and 1,345 cubic feet dalli. 3,978 logs of dalli measuring 64,406 cubic feet were exported to Surinam. The production of mangrove bark was 640,512 lbs. and charcoal 28,716 lbs.

Mechanisation was introduced into the industry with the purchase of a truck and trailer and three tractors by one miller and of a tractor by another. Production was, however, hampered by the abnormally dry conditions which prevailed throughout the year.

The North West Division was responsible for clearing a seven-mile water way from Mora Landing to Mobina Creek in the Aruka River.

There was an increase of 4.2% in the production of timber in the Mazaruni-Potaro District, the total for 1961 being 3,641,360 cubic feet. This increase was accounted for by Class I timber, mainly greenheart. These figures include the Pomeroun, which is under the control of the Essequibo Division.

Sixteen guards attended a Forest Guards course, which comprised instruction in Forest Administration, elementary botany and silviculture, tree identification and elementary surveying.

In the Rupununi District more use was made of airstrips in the shipment of balata and more payments were effected through the District Officers.

Royalty amounting to \$493.75 was collected on lumber.

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There was little activity in the North West Amerindian District where the Manawarin River remains blocked. The Moruca Mouth Sawmills are engaged in clearing in order to resume extraction from the upper reaches of the river.

MINING

General: The country's entire production of gold and diamonds came from the Interior Districts and amounted to 112,679.95 metric carats of diamonds and 1,702 ozs. 3 dwts. 18 grs. of gold as compared with 101,003.92 metric carats of diamonds and 2,364 ozs. 08 dwts. 19 grs. of gold in 1960.

Mazaruni-Potaro District: (a) Gold: The production for the year was 840 ozs. 13 dwts. 01 gr. compared with 1,052 ozs. 11 dwts. 20 grs. in 1960, representing a continuation of the decline of the previous year.

(b) Diamonds: Mazaruni production fell and centres of activity varied there from Kurupung to Eping escarpment. Cuyuni production was up with the Ekereku, the main centre and to a lesser extent, the Eterinbang. Towards the end of the year the Potaro production went up also. Total production for the District showed a slight increase being 111,011.92 metric carats as compared with 98,608.36 in 1960 and 58,082.69 in 1959. During the latter part of the year the boundaries of the Kaieteur National Park were varied and the area reduced to open up more areas to mining.

(c) Stone Quarrying: The production of stone amounted to 57,616 tons.

Rupununi District: (a) Diamonds: The recovery of diamonds was 1,665.46 metric carats as compared with 2,384.26 in 1960.

(b) Gold: Only 28 ozs. 13 dwts. 17 grs. gold was recovered during the year as against 106 ozs. 12 dwts. 19 grs. in 1960.

North West District: (a) Manganese: Shipments of ore from the Manganese Company continued throughout the year, although the prolonged dry spell early in the year had an adverse effect on production; nevertheless, 193,038 tons were exported, an increase of 71,312 tons over the previous year.

(b) Gold: Production continued to fall, only 832 ozs. 17 dwts. being produced as against 1,205 ozs. 04 dwts. 18 grs. for 1960.

(c) Diamonds: Production was nil.

LABOUR

The labour force in the Interior continued to be engaged mainly on mining and forest activities. Relations between management and labour were generally harmonious. One mining dispute was heard during the year.

From September, the cessation of shipments of cattle from the Rupununi to Georgetown, and lack of activity in the cattle industry as a whole, due to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease, widely affected employment in all sections of the industry.

HEALTH

Drs. Ratten and Giglioli visited the North West District in August in connection with the Malaria Eradication Programme and reported that they were satisfied with its progress.

Facilities for medical treatment were maintained at the Public Hospitals at Bartica, Lethem and Mabaruma, each under the charge of Government Medical Officers. The Dispensaries at Mahdia, Enachu, Acquero and Kamarang River Mouth were also maintained under the charge of Government Dispensers, as was the Mobile Health Unit in the North West District, and the Health Centre at Morawhanna where there was a Midwife in charge. A hospital with a Resident Doctor was established by the Manganese Mines Ltd., at Matthew's Ridge in the North West District, for the use of their employees.

In the Rupununi District, the much needed extension and improvements to the hospital building at Lethem were again deferred. Overcrowding continues to present serious problems, as does shortage of nursing staff. The ante-natal and infant welfare clinics at Lethem, Moco Moco and Nappi were discontinued as a result of staff shortages. This was disappointing as it had been hoped that the service could be extended. The Medical Ranger Service operated with varying degrees of efficiency. In the Northern Pakaraimas, the Ranger was on vacation leave during the year and there was no replacement; in the Southern Savannahs, the Foot and Mouth Epidemic restricted the movement of the Ranger.

The hospital building at Mabaruma in the North West District needs attention, particularly the operating theatre. After all these years there are still no Isolation and Maternity Wards. In view of the large number of cases of Tuberculosis, it is imperative that something be done about this situation.

During late October, two Health Visitors spent two weeks in the District administering B.C.G. vaccine to children. At about the same time Dr. J.J. Talbot, Amerindian Medical Officer, spent two months touring the more remote parts of the District. He was seriously handicapped by lack of transport.

MAGISTERIAL AND POLICE

(a) Magisterial: The District Commissioners of the Mazaruni-Potaro, Rupununi and North West Districts continued to serve as Magistrates within their respective Districts. Presiding over courts at Lethem, Anmai and Orinduik, the District Commissioner, Rupununi, disposed of 54 Criminal Cases; there were no Civil Cases. The District Commissioner, Mazaruni-Potaro, presided over the quarterly sittings at Tumatumari, Mahdia, Issano, Enachu and Kurupung and disposed of 332 Criminal and 21 Civil Cases. Two courts were held at Kamarang for the first time. The District Commissioner, North West District, held twelve sittings of the Court at Mabaruma, two at Arakaka, three at Acquero and one at Baramuni, disposing of 210 Criminal and 41 Civil Cases. There were two preliminary enquiries, one involving murder.

Courts were held monthly at Bartica by the Magistrate from Suddie.

(b) Police: In the North West District the Police Station at Arakaka was closed in June and transferred to Matthew's Ridge so that there are still two fully staffed Stations in the District, the other being the Headquarters at Mabaruma. A police post was maintained at Morawhanna. The Deputy Commissioner of Police paid visits in January and March and the Superintendent of the Division three visits during the first half of the year. Lack of adequate boat transport handicapped the Police in the execution of their duties and it is hoped that they will soon be supplied with a new boat.

Rupununi: At the beginning of the year there were five Amerindian policemen stationed in the District. One was subsequently dismissed, one retired and one taken on strength, leaving four at 31st December, 1961. Outposts were established for a while at Toka and Aishalton. Two subordinate officers and twelve men were temporarily transferred to the District to assist in

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controlling the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease.

Mazaruni-Potaro: Police Stations were maintained at Bartica, Tumatumari, Mahdia, Issano, Enachu and Kurupung with outposts at Winiperu, Oranapai and Apaiqua. In November, the two man post at Tumatumari was reduced by one and he was sent to increase the strength at Enachu.

PRISONS

In the Mazaruni-Potaro District, the building at Kamakusa was removed to Enachu and declared a prison with the District Commissioner as Officer-in-Charge.

The Prison at Mabaruma in the North West District needs rebuilding and something should be done about keeping the prisoners usefully occupied. The possibility of stationing an additional policeman at Mabaruma, who would be in a position to watch the prisoners who are working outside the Police Compound, where there is plenty of useful work to be done, might be investigated.

In the Rupununi District, a total of four prisoners underwent sentences during 1961 compared with thirteen in the previous year.

REVENUE

Revenue collected at the Offices of the District Commissioners and the Sub-Wardens at Mahdia, Enachu and Orinduik compared with 1959 and 1960 figures are as follows:-

<u>District</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
North West	\$ 25,918.14	\$ 27,635.80	\$ 30,461.78
Mazaruni-Potaro	122,895.50	96,624.35	35,142.33
Rupununi	10,491.06	12,670.51	10,162.38

PUBLIC WORKS

The Interior Department continued to assist by supervising and accounting for works undertaken by the Public Works Department in the Rupununi, North West and Upper Mazaruni Amerindian Districts. In the Mazaruni-Potaro District this form of assistance was not required.

(a) Buildings: In the Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District reconditioning work on buildings on the Station at Kamarang commenced with the arrival of the Resident Carpenter. A building for miners was also erected on the Station.

In the Mazaruni-Potaro District, good progress was made on the erection of the new tourist Rest House at Kangaruma and plans made for starting the one at Tukeit. Other works included an extension to the Caretaker's quarters, the Bartica Rest House and a new boat house for the Geological Survey Department which was built at Makouria.

In the North West Amerindian District, an attempt to repair the Dispensary at Moruca uncovered so many defects that in December a complete overhaul was decided on.

North West District: Eight buildings were reconditioned during the year.

Rupununi District: Several buildings were reconditioned at Lethem, including the Amerindian Hostel where water was laid on. Under the Development Programme, three new buildings were completed

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being the quarters for the District Field Officer at Annai, the Police N.C.O. at Annai and for the Technician, Post and Telecommunications at Lethem.

(b) Roads: In the Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District, the Kamarang/Paruima Road was cleared for a distance of 10 miles. It was necessary to alter the original trace to avoid swamps. A section from the six mile bridge was strengthened and an improved type of bridge erected.

In the Mazaruni-Potaro District, clearing of the new line for the Bartica-Potaro Road stopped at 20 mile. It is understood that a temporary seal is to be put on up to this point, following which work will cease pending further instructions. The usual maintenance on the remainder of the road continued. The Del Conte Group started work on the Parika-Bartica Road, at Makouria, during the latter part of the year.

In the Rupununi District, general maintenance was carried out on roads throughout the District. The bridge across the Saurab Creek was completed during the year and 5 miles of roadway sheeted from Yamate Wau Creek to the Saurab. The Manari bridge was re-conditioned and an experimental causeway put down across the Moco Moco Creek. From September, all work was restricted by the unserviceability of the D6 and D4 tractors.

North West District: Work was hampered on the roads by the lack of a roller and a suitable vehicle for quick transportation, nevertheless, much work was done, the main accomplishments being the surfacing of further sections of the Barima Swamp Section, the widening of many parts of the Mabaruma Section and the reconditioning of a section of the road from Hosororo to Wanaina.

(c) Airstrips: Surveying and clearing the site of the proposed airstrip at Kaieteur in the Mazaruni-Potaro District were completed.

In the Rupununi District, part of the end of Lethem airstrip was sheeted with gravel and levelled, and the whole airstrip weeded. Aishalton airstrip was weeded and improved. The extensions of the airstrip at Wichabai was begun but was discontinued in September for lack of suitable machinery. The storm drainage was dug and minor works carried out.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications to the Mazaruni-Potaro District included a thrice weekly steamer service between Georgetown and Bartica for passengers and cargo, and thrice weekly air services between the same points and between Georgetown and Tumereng for passengers. Weekly lorry services provided a link for passengers and cargo between Bartica, Potaro, Issano and Mazaruni; 1,700 tons of cargo and 6,635 passengers were carried during the year. A light aircraft strip was built by Mr. G. Golas on the Kaieteur plateau.

In the Rupununi District which is entirely dependent on air communications, B.G. Airways (Govt.) maintained scheduled flights by passenger and cargo carrying planes throughout the year.

In the North West District a weekly steamer continued to be operated by the Transport and Harbours Department. The regular boat employed on the run is old and slow, and conditions aboard very cramped. Opinion in the District has gradually been building up against this unsatisfactory means of communication, and it is to be hoped that either a faster and more spacious boat will soon be provided or a regular air service again established. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works, the Director of Civil Aviation and Officials of B.G. Airways (Govt.) visited Mabaruma on August 16th to examine the possibilities of an airstrip. Their report is awaited.

The North West Amerindian District continued to be served by a fortnightly steamer service, operated by the Transport

and Harbours Department between Georgetown and Pickersgill, Pomeroon River.

In the Upper Mazaruni-Amerindian District, which is entirely dependent on air communications, B.G. Airways (Govt.) operated charter flights to the airstrip at Kamarang River Mouth throughout the year. In addition, hundreds of flights continued to be made from this airstrip by the B.G. Airways (Govt.) Grumman plane and privately owned light aircraft transporting stores and men to the diamond area in the Ekereku, Cuyuni River.

POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mazaruni-Potaro: Radiophones are now working at Mahdia, Issano and Enachu, and two public telephone booths have been installed at Bartica.

The Post Office at Tumatumari was closed during the year and a Postal Agency established.

Rupununi: Radio communications were maintained at Lethem and at Orinduik. Radio transmitter receivers with power plants were installed at Aishalton and Karasabai. Lethem remained the only Post Office and there was no change in the number of postal agencies. An agency is required at Kurukubaru in the Northern Pakaraimas.

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

	<u>Cash Turnover</u>
Lethem	\$ 280,714.40
Annai	6,622.02.

North West District: Postal, telegraphic and radio-telephone services were provided at Mabaruma. Postal agencies were operated at Morawhanna, Arakaka, Port Kaituma, Matthew's Ridge and on the Mobile Health Unit.

Radio-telephone communication was available from the District Offices at Kamarang, Acquero and Orealga.

TRADE

The volume of trade with Brazil, through the Rupununi District, continued to develop and goods to the value of \$330,301.34 were re-exported. These included wheat flour, textiles, shoes, batteries, cycles and cycle parts. Principal domestic exports were again beef, precious stones and balata; shipments of tomatoes were increased.

CUSTOMS

The prevention of smuggling into the Rupununi District of tobacco and alcohol remains a major problem.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regional Development Committees and their sub-committees met regularly during the year in the Rupununi, Mazaruni-Potaro and North West Districts.

MISSIONS AND EDUCATION

(a) Missions: The activities of the Missions were maintained as in previous years. Medical assistance to the Villages in the Rupununi District through the Unevangelised Fields

...../Mission

Mission Doctor was widely extended.

(b) Education: Upper Mazaruni Amerindian District: The average attendance at the five schools - 4 denominational and 1 government - in the District remained fair throughout the year. The Education Officer and School Feeding Officer visited and inspected all schools.

Rupununi District: With the exception of the Government School at St. Ignatius, all the schools are run by the Missions. The St. Ignatius School continues to grow and, at the end of the year, over 80 children were housed in the temporary infant school. There is urgent need for a new infant school and quarters for the teaching staff. The school still caters for primary education only and it is hoped that, with the completion of the hostel, its status will be raised to that of a senior school with emphasis on the peculiar needs of the area. A new school was opened at Moco Moco during the year.

North West District: There were twenty-eight schools in the District at the end of December. With the exception of the Santa Rosa Roman Catholic and Warumuri Anglican, which became government controlled schools from 1st July, all the schools are denominational. The general standard of education showed little improvement and the principal problems remained:-

- (a) The lack of suitably qualified teachers;:
- (b) The provision of adequate accommodation for teachers; and
- (c) The vastness of the District.

Only a few teachers are willing to go to the District because of the unsatisfactory living conditions obtaining there. Two in-service education courses for teachers were held but, while these courses serve a commendable purpose, they cannot pretend to be a substitute for the more specialised training to be obtained at the Government Training College. Two teachers were admitted to the College for training in September. If two can be trained each year for the next ten years, and be persuaded to remain in the District, the pattern of education could be revolutionized.

The Assistant Education Officer paid 100 visits to schools in the Districts which involved travelling about 850 miles. He now has his own boat and has reported a growing consciousness of the importance of education in the District.

MISCELLANEOUS

SOCIAL WELFARE: The District Commissioner's Office at Bartica was approached continually by persons claiming to be stranded in the District and seeking passes back to the city. In one instance about 70 persons were issued passes. They had been misinformed about going to Bartica to seek work with the Del Conte Group. The question of the issue of passes has been raised with the appropriate Ministry.

ELECTIONS: The General Elections which took place in August were carried out with the assistance of all District Officers, and, generally speaking, were without incident. The result of the election in the Rupununi District was the subject of an election petition which was still undecided at the end of the year.

...../ I should

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,



Commissioner of the Interior.

The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs,
6, Brickdam, Georgetown,
British Guiana.