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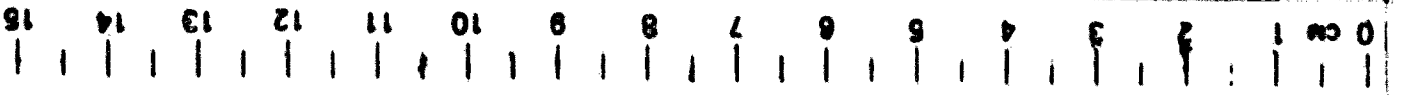
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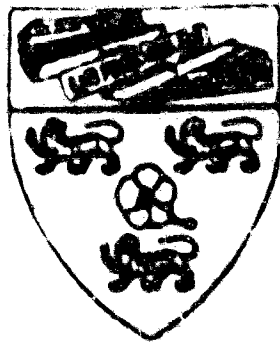
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THE POPULATION OF PERUMI

by

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A Graduation Exercise presented to
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part fulfillment towards the
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SYNOPSIS

Brunei is the richest state in Borneo, and the smallest. Its history can be traced back for several centuries, but economic progress became marked only subsequent to, and was a direct consequence of, the growth of the oilfield in her midst. Such development, however, is more than compensated by her diminutive size - 2,226 square miles - with the result that little research has been undertaken on the country and its people. This unfortunate paucity is matched by an equally small volume of statistics published in the country. Hence, the major sources of information for this exercise are census reports and registration data. Of the former, only the 1947 and 1960 Censuses are sufficiently comprehensive for analysis; of the latter, available annual reports date only from 1935. As such, the analysis outlined here can, at best, be superficial, though it must equally be admitted that general patterns are discernable.

One fact which must always be borne in mind is that the smallness of the numbers involved may cause some exaggeration or distortion in interpretation. This is particularly true where the residual group of people - "Others" - is concerned.

The population of Brunei is essentially cosmopolitan. Like the other states in Borneo, the Indigenous peoples - Malays and a multitude of indigenous races or tribes, some minute, some substantial, make up the largest proportion of the population. In conformity with the rest of Southeast Asia, Chinese constitute a minority, significant in numbers, but zero so in economic power. Others, mainly Indians and Europeans, form only a small minority.

A third factor which pervades the whole analysis is the importance of the oilfield as an influence upon the demographic structure of the population. Thus, the growth of the oilfield constitutes the single most important factor determining the direction and volume of migration, both internal and international, while the distortion of the sex-age structures are all consequences, albeit less direct, of the same phenomenon.

Despite the importance of the oilfield, the state is still basically agricultural. This is shown by an analysis of the population by industry and occupation.

This exercise attempts to describe and analyse, with the limited data available, the structure and characteristics of the population of Brunei. An outline of population distribution and structure is found in Chapters I and II. This is followed by a broad analysis of various characteristics - Migration (Chapter III) and Marital Status (Chapter IV). Births, Deaths and Natural Increase are in Chapter V. Finally, Chapter VI summarises the economic characteristics of the working population.

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