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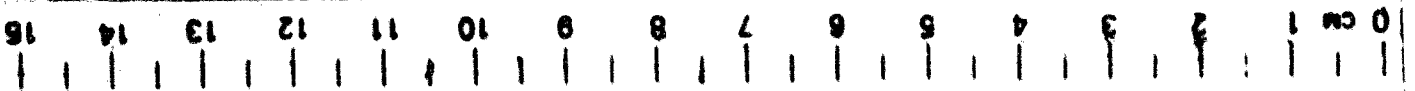
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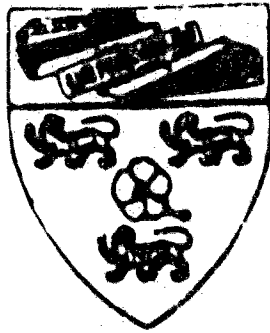
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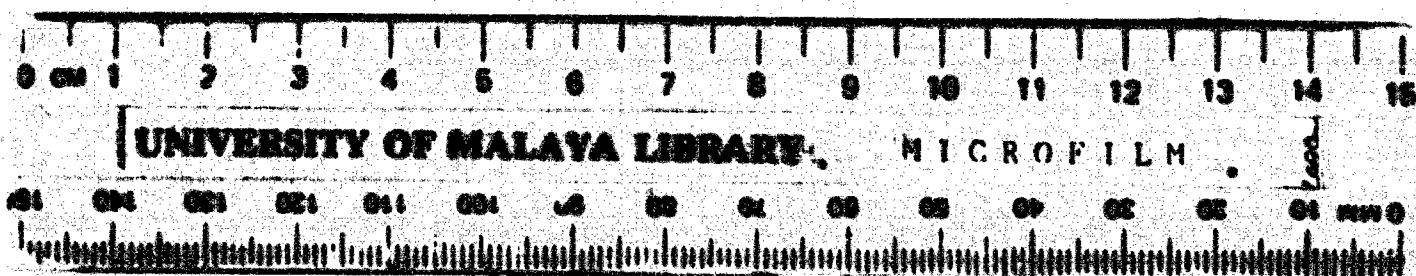


THE POPULATION OF SARAWAK

By

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**A Graduation Exercise submitted as
part fulfilment towards the Degree
of Bachelor of Arts in Economics,
University of Malaya.**



KUALA LUMPUR

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INTRODUCTION

The population of Sarawak has never received such attention from anybody. Until the publication of the two censuses, 1947 and 1960, knowledge of the Sarawak population was fragmentary. However, recent events have suddenly pushed the country into the limelight of international politics particularly with the formation of Malaysia and with Indonesian confrontation.

This article is not an analysis of the political and economic position of the diverse population of Sarawak but rather is an attempt to outline, in simple and straightforward manner, some features of the Sarawak population.

Any attempt to study the demographic history of Sarawak is made difficult by two factors, viz., the lack of population data on the one hand, and the changing size of the country from time to time in its growth as an integral state on the other. Until 1939 there was no attempt to make a complete head-count of the population. However, various estimates of the population have been made from time to time but these are very unreliable. What is more unfortunate is that figures of any kind are woefully few, for during the Japanese occupation there was much destruction of records and archives so that little now remains. Although figures are also found in works of history of the country these are of uneven value.

When James Brooke assumed power in Sarawak in 1841, the area under his administration extended from Tanjong Datu to the Samarahan river and the population was computed to have been 10,500. Since then the territory of Sarawak has expanded over twenty times its original size. Because of this a study of population change is not possible. Nevertheless, the 1947 Census is a good basis for any future study of the demographic features of the country.