

EMPIRE ESSAY



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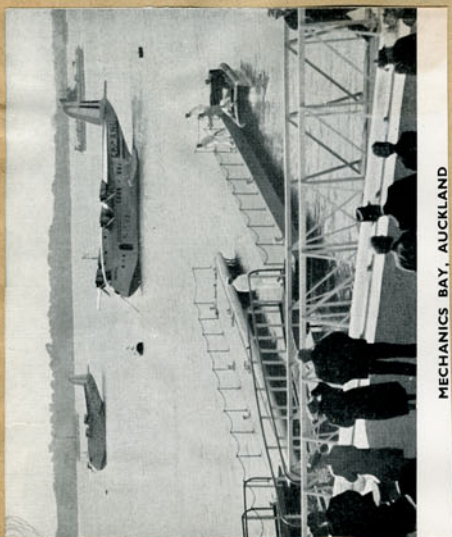
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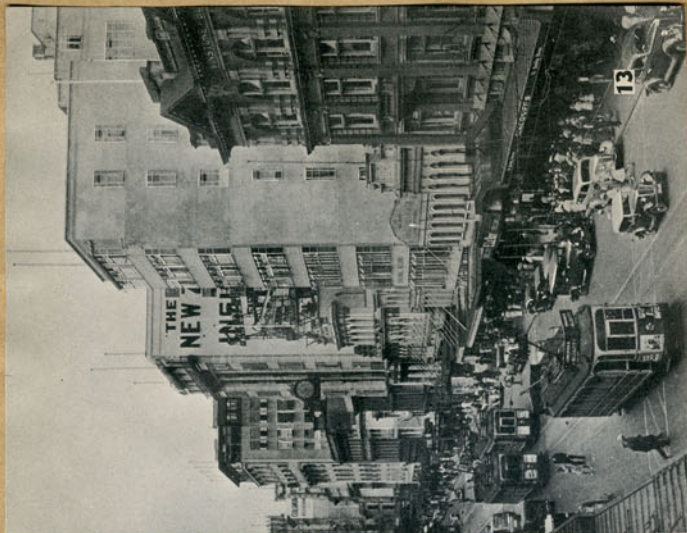
Auckland
New Zealand



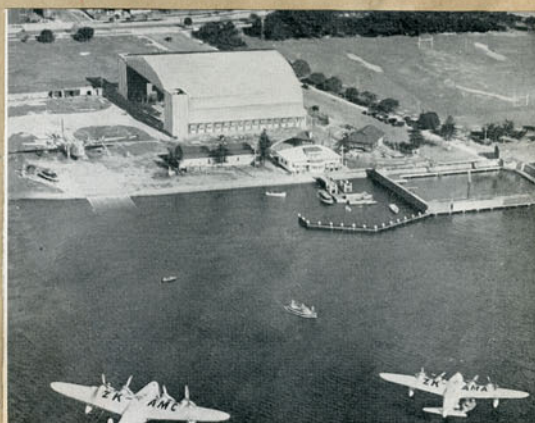
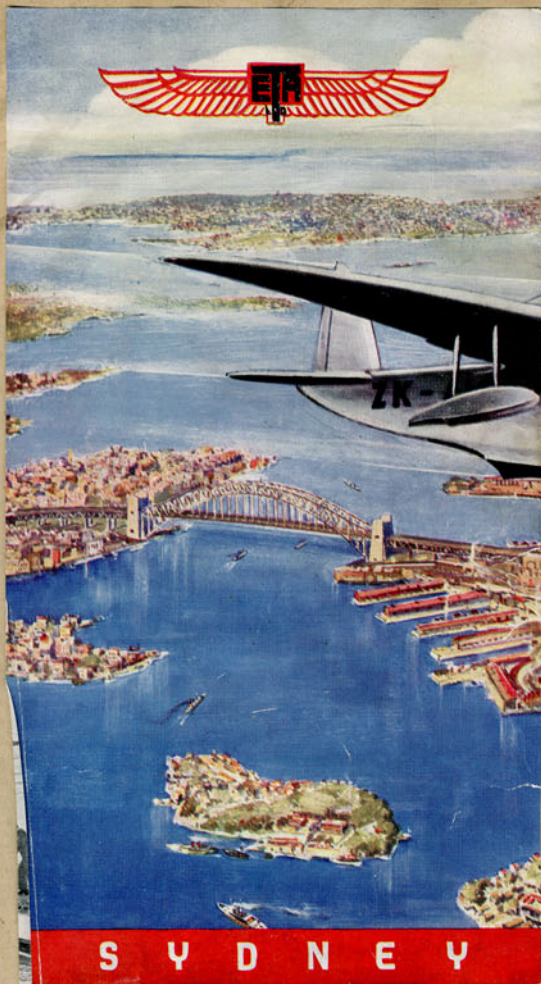
1940—Auckland as it now appears to an airman flying over the business portion and the waterfront. In 100 years there has developed a city and port of first rank, standing on great shipping and air routes of the world, and serving an extensive inland area of productive country.



MECHANICS BAY, AUCKLAND



Australia



ROSE BAY, SYDNEY

Part of Australia's wealth. New South Wales pastoral country.



In the surf at Coogee, one of Sydney's favourite beach resorts.





Nature's masterpiece—landscape at Robertson, New South Wales. Gently undulating and lightly wooded, the countryside is rich in picturesque effect.



Dutch East
Indies

JAVA

The Wonderland

At the end of a smooth-water voyage all the glamour of the East awaits you—bazaars, ancient temples, picturesque native life, strange customs, scenery unequalled in the world. A monthly service is maintained from Melbourne and Sydney by way of Brisbane. The Great Barrier Reef, Thursday Island, Darwin, Sourabaya, Samarang and Batavia to Singapore. Spacious decks, restful lounges, a tiled swimming pool, the latest talking pictures all add to the pleasure of your cruise. Fares are free of exchange and the round trip occupies about 7 weeks from Sydney.



At your request we shall be pleased to forward Folder No. 15.



Photograph by Dr. Edward Burton MacDowell

THE GAMELAN'S MUSIC SPEAKS THE SPIRIT OF THE EAST

From 8 to 15 musicians make up a *gamelan*, or native orchestra, in which crude fiddles, gongs, bells, xylophonelike instruments, and drums are played in a minor key. At times plaintive and weird and again with great spirit and much crashing of drums and gongs, this music possesses distinctive charm.



BATIKING



Exquisite detail in carving at the entrance to the Temple of Sampida in Bali, most enchanting island of the Dutch East Indies. Decorative work shows strongly the imprint of Hindu influence. The Balinese take pride in maintaining their ancient shrines and temples in a state of good repair.



© National Geographic Society
PUPPET SHOWS ARE THE FAVORITE NATIONAL PASTIME



CLOUD-CAPPED SALAK LOOMS ABOVE A SEA OF VERDURE

An excellent climate has made Buitenzorg the island's country capital, where the Governor General, and such other officials as can, seek surcease from the heat of Batavia. Coconut palms border the muddy river which flows through the city, and on the near-by slopes of Mount Salak, tea and coffee plantations flourish.



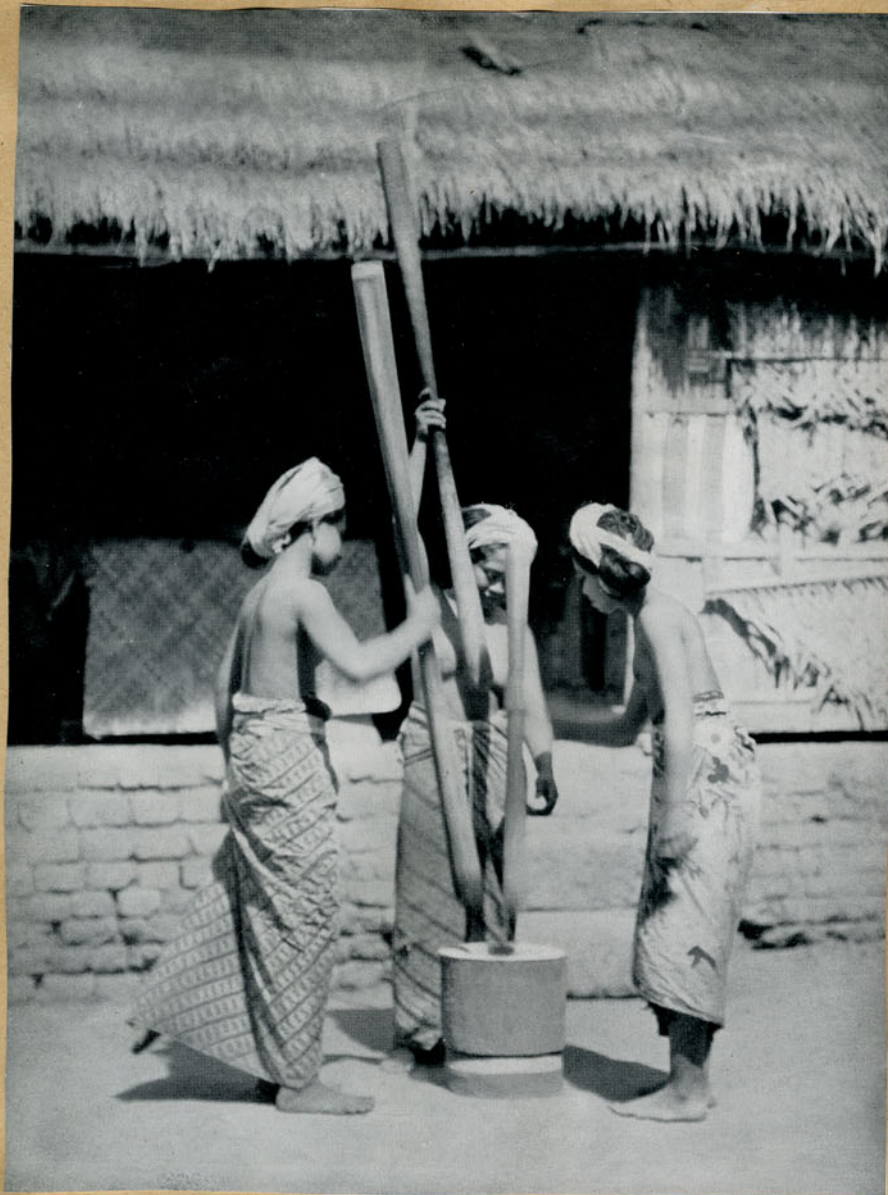
Everywhere in Bali bathing pools abound, and at least thrice daily the Balinese bathe in the cool waters. The gracefully proportioned women, their shining black hair smoothly coiled, make a delightful picture in this daily ritual, sunlight and water glistening upon clear olive skin.



Photograph by De Cos from Galloway

BIRD AND CHICKEN PEDDLERS ALONG A JAVANESE HIGHWAY

Few indeed are the native homes in Java that have not some variety of feathered pet. Frequently a dove will be kept in a cage, which is raised each morning to the top of a high pole (see text, page 346). If the family goes on a journey, the bird goes, too.





Photograph from Helmig and Co.—Kurdjian

WITHIN JAVA'S VAST TENGGER CRATER LESSER VOLCANOES HAVE BURST FORTH

No more extraordinary panorama of weird and fantastic volcanic scenery exists anywhere else in the world. In the central foreground is the symmetrical cone of Mount Batok. In the left middle distance is Bromo, into whose seething pit at one time were hurled human sacrifices to the Fire God (see text, page 343). The smoking cone in the background is lofty Semeroc.



© National Geographic Society
Autochromes by Tassilo Adam
BOY IMPERSONATORS TREAD THE SLOW, RHYTHMIC MEASURES OF A NATIVE DANCE

To the speed-loving West, their leisurely movements would probably seem a veritable slow motion picture. However, each posture assumed has a significance of its own and conveys a meaning to the interested Javanese onlooker. The seven boys are performers at the Court of Djokja.



Autochromes by W. Robert Moore

SKILL, PATIENCE, AND ARTISTRY

batik may take several weeks to complete. This time element gives it a handsome native product for sarongs and turbans, they turn to much



© National Geographic Society
Autochromes by W. Robert Moore
ZEBU CATTLE AND A COVERED WAGON CARRY SUGAR CANE TO THE MILLS

Java is one of the world's chief producers and exporters of sugar and the cane has been grown there for centuries. The driver of this equipage, regarding the camera as possessed of an "evil eye," stubbornly refused to be photographed and hid himself far back in the cart. At the left is a field of growing cane.



WHERE JAVANESE ART REACHES ITS HIGHEST PINNACLE

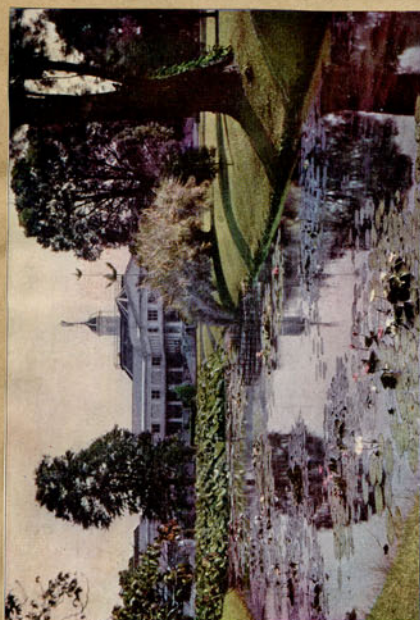
Borobudder was probably built as a reliquary to house some fractional portion of the Great Buddha's remains. Its skillfully conceived and executed galleries and terraces are unsurpassed in the field of Buddhist art (see, also, Color Plate 1).



Photographs by W. Robert Moore

MUCH OF THE WORLD'S RUBBER COMES FROM THE EAST INDIES

When a rubber tree comes to bearing age, a tapper slices off small areas of bark with a knife especially designed for this purpose. The latex flows from these wounds into small cups.



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A LOTUS POND ADJOINS THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PALACE

Queen Wilhelmina's representative in the East Indies governs more than 50,000,000 subjects. His magnificent residence at Buitenzorg is in the midst of a botanical garden which Dutch horticultural genius, a tropical sun, fertile soil and a daily shower have combined to make one of the finest in the world.



DOKJA IS THE CENTER OF AN INTERESTING NATIVE LEATHER INDUSTRY



© National Geographic Society

THEIR TASK IS AS OLD AS THE AGES

Autochrome by W. Robert Moore

The eternal quest for food is a vital problem for Java's teeming millions. Rice provides the solution, and the Javanese have cultivated it and relied principally upon it to sustain life for countless generations. They begrudge it no labor and flooded paddy fields are everywhere, rising like steps up the mountain sides and glittering in the tropical sunshine of the valleys.



© National Geographic Society

BUNDLES OF RICE HEADS BROUGHT IN TO DRY BEFORE THRESHING

Autochromes by W. Robert Moore

Native women separate the grain from the chaff by beating it with a pestle in a wooden trough. Modern threshing machinery is practically unknown. The enormous yield of her fertile acres has earned for Java the title of "Granary of the East."



PLAYING NURSEMAID TO A FIELD OF YOUNG RICE

Modern methods have made little impression on the Javanese rice farmers, who still cling to their age-old methods. The seed is sown in well-watered nursery beds, and after the plants have obtained a start they are gathered in small bunches and transplanted to larger fields, where they are set out about a foot apart.

Malaya



Britain's Mighty Fortress of Singapore Links India and the Far East

To this cosmopolitan city, on an island at the tip of the Malay Peninsula, come valuable cargoes of rubber and tin to be transhipped to all parts of the world. Ships plying between the Indian and Pacific Oceans on the most direct route steam through the Strait of Malacca. To defend Singapore, the Malaya-Thailand border to the north has been heavily fortified. In addition, the coastal defense area on the South China Sea was extended in September, 1941, to a point 200 miles north of the city, to guard against sea-borne invasion.



© Weirnes Air Services

Enriched by World Trade, Singapore Proudly Parades Its Palaces Before Its Benefactor, the Sea

Fleets of small craft bring cargoes up the Singapore River into the heart of the city behind the massive Fullerton Building in the center (page 684 and Color Plate III). Beyond the modern façade along Collyer Quay (left) squats the teeming native city, three-fourths Chinese. Victoria Memorial Hall, the new Supreme Court structure, and the Municipal Building face on lawnlike playing fields at right.



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

SELF-IRONING LAUNDRY HUNG ON POLES DRAWS VISITORS TO THIS OBSCURE LANE NEAR THE FOREIGN SHOPPING DISTRICT

Just off North Bridge Road, where Chinese vie with East Indians in selling silks and bathing suits, cotton goods and fountain pens, French perfumes and German cameras, is this teeming alley with the red-and-white fire-station tower in the background. Not leisure but endless activity impresses one who delves into the byways to watch paper lanterns acquire pictures, chunks of wood become clogs, rattan shaped into a deck chair, or bits of leather made into tiny shoes for Chinese feet. The tricycle is used as a delivery wagon.



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

SIGNS OF THE TIMES AT THE "CROSSROADS OF THE EAST"

Four square miles of swamp and jungle have been transformed into new flying fields, where airplanes now succeed mosquitoes.



© Screen Traveler, from Gendreau

WITH THREE SWEATING COOLIES WAGGING ITS TAIL, A ROUND-EYED BARGE CAN CARRY MANY TONS OF CARGO



Photographs © Screen Traveler, from Gendreau

RAW MATERIAL FOR RICKSHA, BICYCLE, AND AUTOMOBILE TIRES, RUBBER BOOTS, TENNIS SHOES, AND BALLS

Malaya does not export all its half-million-ton crop of rubber. Singapore manufactures 20,000 pairs of tennis shoes a day, and 6,500 tires. Local fire engines owe their quick getaway to a nonskid floor of rubber tile.



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Kodachrome by J. Baylor Roberts

Singapore River, Pulsing Heart of Straits Settlements Life, Separates New from Old and North from South



© National Geographic Society

Kodachrome by J. Baylor Roberts

Eyes Downcast, a Malay Bride and Groom Sit for Hours on the Nuptial Throne

Relatives admire the bright silks and ornate headdress of the stoical couple patiently enduring the lengthy Oriental ceremonies in Singapore. Surmounting the rich canopy are the Lion and Unicorn of Great Britain and the motto of the Order of the Garter—"Shamed be he who thinks evil of it."



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Magic and Snake Charming Follow a Sunday Morning Concert in a Singapore Hotel

Kodachrome by J. Baylor Roberts

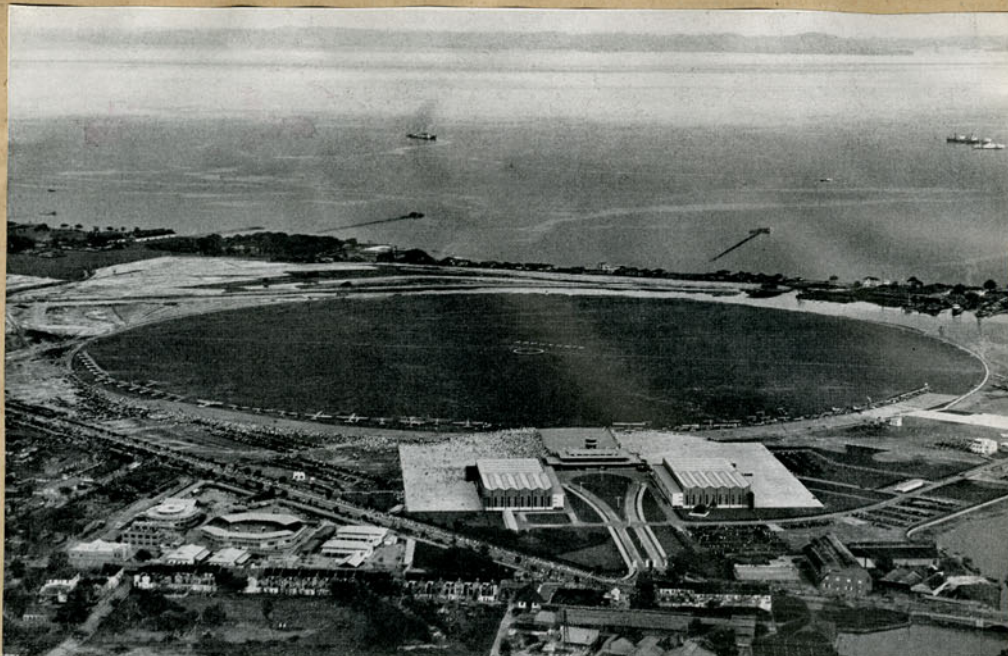
The Sea View, near Katong (Turtle) Point, has a breezy ballroom, where excellent concerts are held in a less formal manner than in the world-famous Victoria Theater. When the sports-clad crowd breaks up, snake charmers and magicians are sure of an interested audience and a shower of small coins.



Staff Photographer J. Baylor Roberts

Ankle-deep in Muddy Streams, Sluice Tenders Retrieve Tin Ore, Vital U. S. Defense Need

Under pounding of a powerful jet of water, tin-bearing earth is broken down and washed into a basin. Then the mixture of water, ore, sand, and dirt is pumped up to the top of these sluices and allowed to flow down. Strips across the flooring catch the heavy tin, while the lighter sand and dirt wash away. At intervals the stream is shut off and the collected ore removed in baskets. From the Malay Archipelago comes about one-third of the world's supply of tin.



Sixty Planes Stage an Air Show at Singapore's Ultramodern Airport

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Motorcars and sight-seers crowd the field, which only a short time before was a steaming tidal swamp. This aviation center was built primarily to serve British Imperial Airways planes plying between London and Melbourne, Australia. Today the waters off the airport are journey's end for big Pan American Clippers (p. 663).



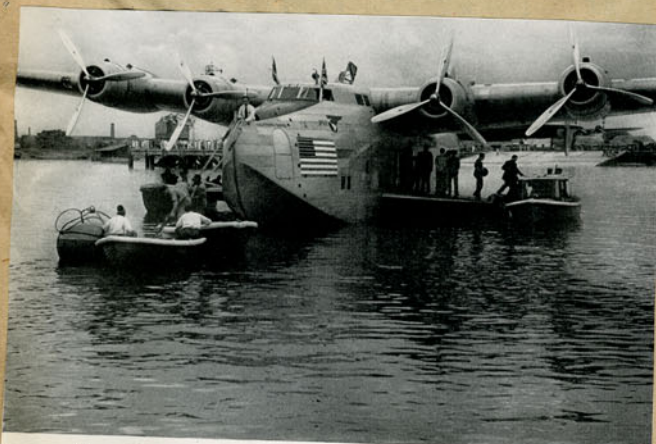
CHIEF ATTRACTION OF A LONG LIDO IS THE SINGAPORE SWIMMING CLUB

© Screen Traveler, from Gendreau

Mid-town cricket, tennis, badminton, and football, and suburban golf and horse racing, help keep the European population fit. But along the eastern shore are many beaches and shark-free enclosed pools, and this non-tidal basin where children splash under the watchful eyes of their Chinese *amaks*, or nurses. Few cities offer better facilities for sports than this sea-level metropolis, less than a hundred miles from the Equator, where European women are vastly outnumbered by the men.

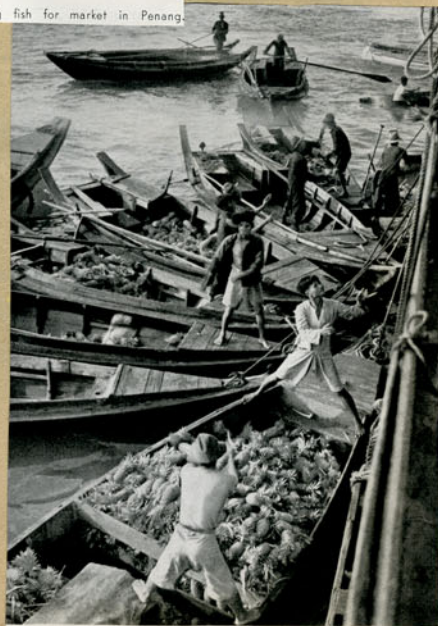


The fish industry is an important one in Malaya. The scene above shows a Malay family at work drying fish for market in Penang.



Every Two Weeks a Pan American Clipper Now Docks at Singapore

The 9,473-mile flight from San Francisco's Treasure Island takes six days and costs \$825, or \$1,485 round trip. Way-stations are Honolulu, Midway, Wake, Guam, and Manila. The first Clipper arrived in Singapore on May 10, 1941 (page 680).



PINEAPPLE CANNING IS A MAJOR INDUSTRY

In such small boats many "pines" are transhipped from local steamer to cannery. Modern methods are used, labor is skillful, and the annual canned pineapple crop is valued at \$5,000,000. Hundreds of such small rowboats help solve the problem of water traffic between ship and shore.



Staff Photographer J. Bayler Roberts

Coolies Shoulder Bales of Rubber When *Tongkang* Dock in the Singapore River

These clumsy craft, poled into the heart of the city, bear cargoes brought from interisland steamers anchored in the harbor roadstead (opposite page). Here the crude rubber is weighed and checked by Rubber Regulation officials, who use the little house-on-wheels as headquarters. Then the bales, some weighing 300 pounds, are carried to the waiting trucks of rubber merchants.