

BRUNEI DALAM THE *NORTH BORNEO HERALD*

Awang Hanafi bin Haji Salleh

Pengenalan

Semasa membuat penyelidikan dan penempatan di National Archives, United Kingdom pada 17 Ogos hingga 3 September 2008, penulis telah mengakses surat khabar *The North Borneo Herald* berbahasa Inggeris yang disimpan di National Archives, United Kingdom. Surat khabar ini didaftar di bawah siri fail CO 855/1 hingga CO 855/22. Fail CO 855/1 hingga 22 tersebut merupakan salinan asal (original copy) surat khabar *The North Borneo Herald* yang dijilid dalam bentuk buku. Sebanyak 22 buah buku yang didaftarkan di bawah CO 855/1 hingga CO 855/22 telah diakses dan dibuat penyalinan setiap lembaran isi kandungannya. Pihak National Archives telah menyediakan perkhidmatan dan kemudahan bagi membuat penyalinan sendiri dokumen yang diakses dengan menggunakan kamera sendiri asalkan memenuhi syarat yang ditetapkan. Perkhidmatan ini tidak dikenakan bayaran. Kos untuk mendapatkan salinan rekod tersebut daripada pihak National Archives dalam bentuk DVD ada disediakan tetapi kos pembelian adalah mahal dan memakan masa yang panjang. Oleh itu untuk menjimatkan kewangan, masa dan tenaga, proses penggambaran dengan menggunakan kamera digital adalah sebagai satu langkah alternatif bagi mendapatkan rekod berkenaan. Salinan imej digital surat khabar *The North Borneo Herald* di bawah CO 855/1 hingga CO 855/22 ini boleh diakses di Unit Rekod, Bahagian Sumber, Pusat Sejarah Brunei.

Pendahuluan

The North Borneo Herald atau dikenali sebagai *The British North Borneo Herald and Official Gazette* mula diterbitkan buat pertama kalinya di Kudat pada tahun 1883.¹ *The British North Borneo Herald and Official Gazette* merupakan media penting sebagai penyebar maklumat bagi pentadbiran Syarikat Berpiagam British Borneo Utara dari tahun 1883 hingga tahun 1941.² Surat khabar ini mengandungi maklumat tentang berita-berita tempatan, perkembangan penanaman dan industri-industri lain, catatan mengenai sejarah, alam semulajadi, Warta Kerajaan dan laporan mengenai pentadbiran.

Pada 1 Januari 1892, *Official Gazette* telah menjadi terbitan yang berasingan.³ Dengan itu, surat khabar *The North Borneo Herald* telah diterbitkan dengan menggunakan nama *The British North Borneo Herald and Monthly Record*,⁴ yang mengandungi ruangan pengarang, peristiwa-peristiwa tempatan, catatan aktiviti penanaman, sukan, kisah-kisah penjelajahan ke tempat pedalaman dan artikel-artikel khas.

Surat khabar *The North Borneo Herald* keluaran tahun 1883 mengandungi 44 lembaran. Keluaran pada tahun 1883 bermula pada 1 Mac 1883 hingga 31 Disember 1883. Dalam terbitan pertama *The North Borneo Herald*, salah satu berita yang dimuatkan adalah mengenai Brunei iaitu merakamkan tentang rundingan-rundingan Sultan Brunei bagi penyerahan wilayah kekuasaannya iaitu Utara Sungai Kimanis.⁵ Laporan yang dimuatkan dalam *The North Borneo Herald* bertarikh 1 Mac 1883 itu di bawah tajuk *Retrospective* yang antara lain menyebutkan seperti berikut:

“It was in December, 1877, that negotiations were first entered into with the Sultan of Brunei for the cession of his territory in Borneo north of the Kimanis river, in consideration of the payment to His Highness and to the Pangeran Tumonggong, his Prime Minister and heir apparent, of an annual subsidy, and in January of the following year a similar understanding was arrived at with the late Sultan

*of Sulu, the father of the present Sovereign, whose authority was recognised over the North-east part of Borneo. The country ceded by the agreements thus entered into comprises the whole northern portion of the island of Borneo, from the Kimanis river, a few miles north of the British colony of Labuan, on the West Coast, to the Siboku river, the Dutch boundary on the East Coast, with an area estimated at above 20,000 square miles, and a coast line of over five hundred miles. In reporting the matter to the Foreign Office, Mr. Treacher, then H.B.M.'s Consul-General in Borneo, stated “The new Lessees thus become possessed of all the best harbours in northern Borneo, and of those which may be said to command the route to China, vessels in the north-east monsoon passing at no great distance from North Borneo. Not only does this portion of North Borneo contain the best harbours, but it also possesses the best soil and is richest in natural productions, such as edible bird's nests (in which the river Kinabatangan is especially rich), camphor, rattans, sago, gatta-percha, e., and there is little doubt that when explored it will be found to contain valuable minerals. The existence of coal is already known”.*⁶

Dalam keluaran *The North Borneo Herald* bertarikh 1 Julai 1883 pula dimuatkan sebuah laporan mengenai Brunei berjudul ‘The Governor’s Visit to the West Coast and Brunei’⁷. Kandungan laporan tersebut adalah seperti berikut:

“H.E. the Governor, with Mr. Daly, Private Secretary, returned to Kudat, after a lengthened stay on the East Coast, by the launch ‘Sabine’ on the evening of the 17th May and left, after the departure of the Hongkong mail steamer, for Labuan and Brunei on the 23rd by the ‘S.S. Borneo...’

The ‘Borneo’ cast anchor in the Brunei river on the evening of the 24th Queen’s birthday-about half a mile below the capital, and immediately opposite the residence of Her Britannic Majesty’s Consular Agent. It was found that there are some twenty-three British subjects residing at Brunei and on the 26th the Governor and Mrs. Treacher gave a dinner in honor of Her Majesty’s birthday,

1 Majella Tan Marquez @Taub, ‘Brunei Dalam Surat Khabar North Borneo’, *Masa Silam Sarana Masa Depan. Kumpulan Kertas Kerja Seminar Sejarah Brunei II*, Pusat Sejarah Brunei, Bandar Seri Begawan, 1999, h. 248-249.

2 *Ibid.*

3 *Ibid.*

4 *Ibid.*

5 Lampiran 1.

6 CO 855/1, *The North Borneo Herald and Official Gazette*, No. 1, Vol. 1, Kudat, 1 March 1883, h. 1.

7 Lampiran 2a dan 2b.

Captain Edwards kindly placing the steamer at their disposal for the purpose and assisting in gaily decorating the ship with flags, coloured lanterns, ferns, orchids and jungle foliage. Fourteen guests including Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Agent sat down, all British subjects, with the exception of Mr. Meyerink, a German gentleman, who has been visiting North Borneo for the purpose of selecting a large acreage of agricultural land on behalf of his Firm in Hongkong. The British subjects were of various nationalities, English, Malay, Chinese, Eurasian and Indian. The Borneo lay two clear days at Brunei and the bulk of the cargo she obtained there consisted of but 1,000 bags of sago flour. For the privilege of visiting Brunei she is, under the treaty concluded between Great Britain and the Sultan of Brunei, liable to be called upon to pay the sum of \$1 a ton each time she enters the river whether in cargo or ballast. By arrangement between the owner and the authorities this heavy duty is commuted for the payment of \$1,600. This duty of \$1 a ton on all shipping entering the river is presumably in lieu of import and export duties, but it is needless to say that the ancient capital has but one steamer trading to it, whereas the newly founded settlement of the Company at Sandakan supplies cargo to five regular running British steamers - the 'Borneo', 'Hong Ann', 'Banca', 'Thales' and 'Royalist'.

The kingdom of Brunei, apart from its two off shoots Sarawak and North Borneo, has many fine rivers within its boundaries, including the Limbang, Trusan, Padas, Kalias, Membakut, Bangawan and Tutong, all first rate sago rivers, only awaiting the advent of a moderately strong government, whether Asiatic or European, to afford a good market for British manufactures and swell the trade of the Straits Settlements. There seems further every reasons to believe that it possesses valuable mineral resources- tin, antimony, cinnabar in addition to the valuable coal seams now being worked at Muara at the mouth of the Brunei river. An experienced gentlemen, long resident in Sarawak and these parts of Borneo, is at present negotiating with the Sultan for the concession of the sole right of working minerals, except coal, in His Highness' territory.

...

On the 1st June anchor was weighed in the 'Royalist' and 'Kimanis' and after a short halt at the pretty station of Kimanis,

Labuan was reached the same night. At noon the next day the Governor, Mr. Alfred Dent and party, consisting of Messrs. Daly and R. Gordon Wickham, Mr. Bampfylde, Sub-Resident of the East Coast, and Mr. Davies, Assistant Resident of Papar and Gaya, proceeded on to Brunei in the 'Royalist' and 'Kimanis' anchoring off the Sultan's Palace the same night. H.M.S. 'Magpie', surveying vessel, Commander, Hon F.P. Foley Vereker, R.N., was passed at the mouth of the Brunei river, and she found sufficient depth of water opposite the Muara coal mines, for vessels drawing eighteen feet.

At noon of the 3rd the whole party paid a formal visit to H.H. the Sultan, a salute of seventeen guns being fired from the shore in the Governor's honour. The aged Sultan, popularly supposed to be over one hundred years old, received his visitors courteously; huge beeswax candle of native manufacture were placed on the floor in front of the honored guests, and immense nipa cigarettes filled with native tobacco were handed round. His Highness appeared to be in very feeble bodily health, his memory even as regards current events having entirely failed him, and he is totally unable to carry on an ordinary conversation. He has lately filled up the appointments of various high offices of state which have been in abeyance for the past ten or fifteen years. Thus the Pangeran Anak Besar has become the Bendahara, the Pangeran Matassan the Di Gadong, while a son of the Maharaja Lela is about to installed as Pamancha, Capitan Kim Swee, the courteous and respected Agent of the Company in Brunei has been appointed by the Sultan Datu Tummongong over the Chinese residents. Several marriages amongst the Rajahs have recently been celebrated in Brunei, the most important from a political point of view being the marriages of two daughters of the Pangeran Tummongong respectively to the Bendahara and the son of Pangeran Abdul Roup. The Bendahara was the only possible rival to the Tummongong in the succession to the childless Sultan and by the present alliance all fears of a disturbances on the Sultan's death are removed. The Bendahara is residing in the house of his father-in-law. A few days were spent in visiting the several dignitaries and is exchanging presents, and on the morning of the 6th the two vessels dropped down the river paying a visit to the Muara mines on the way to Labuan, which was

*reached in the evening. H.M.S.'s. 'Champion,' 'Magpie' and 'Fly' were found at anchor in the Harbour.*⁸

Kesimpulan

Berdasarkan laporan yang dipetik daripada surat khabar *The North Borneo Herald*, keluaran tahun 1883 ini, telah memberikan berbagai informasi atau maklumat yang signifikan mengenai beberapa perkara yang boleh dijadikan fakta dan sumber khususnya dalam pengkajian sejarah Brunei dan yang berkaitan dengannya. Antara lain maklumat yang terkandung dalam laporan atau berita mengenai Brunei ialah tentang peristiwa rundingan bagi penyerahan wilayah kekuasaan Sultan Brunei iaitu Sungai Kimanis dan juga peristiwa lawatan Gabenor Mr. Alfred Dent dan rombongan ke Brunei pada Jun 1883. Laporan lawatan rombongan tersebut telah diceritakan dengan jelas sebelum, ketika dan selepas menghadap Sultan Brunei di Istana baginda pada ketika itu. Antara lain maklumat yang tercatat dalam laporan lawatan tersebut adalah seperti gambaran mengenai keadaan fizikal Sultan Brunei pada ketika itu; nama dan tarikh lawatan Gabenor ke Brunei; keadaan Brunei, sumber dan hasil pendapatannya pada ketika itu.

Lampiran 1

It was in December, 1877, that negotiations were first entered into with the Sultan of Brunei for the cession of his territory in Borneo north of the Kimanis river, in consideration of the payment to His Highness and to the Pangeran Tumonggong, his Prime Minister and heir apparent, of an annual subsidy, and in January of the following year a similar understanding was arrived at with the late Sultan of Sulu, the father of the present Sovereign, whose authority was recognised over the North-east part of Borneo. The country ceded by the agreements thus entered into comprises the whole northern portion of the island of Borneo, from the Kimanis river, a few miles north of the British colony of Labuan, on the West Coast, to the Siboku river, the Dutch boundary on the East Coast, with an area estimated at above 20,000 square miles, and a coast line of over five hundred miles. In reporting the matter to the Foreign Office, Mr. Treacher, then H. B. M.'s Consul-General in Borneo, stated "The new Lessees thus become possessed of all the best harbours in northern Borneo, and of those which may be said to command the route to China, vessels in the north-east monsoon passing at no great distance from North Borneo. Not only does this portion of North Borneo contain the best harbours, but it also possesses the best soil and is richest in natural productions, such as edible bird's nests (in which the river Kinabatangan is especially rich), camphor, rattans, sago, gutta-percha, &c., and there is little doubt that when explored it will be found to contain valuable minerals. The existence of coal is already known."

Sumber: CO 855/1, *The North Borneo Herald and Official Gazette*, No. 1, Vol. 1, Kudat, 1st March 1883, h. 1.

⁸ CO 855/1, *The North Borneo Herald and Official Gazette*, No. III, Vol. 1, Kudat, 1st July 1883, h. 1- 3.

THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO THE WEST COAST AND BRUNEI.

H. E. the Governor, with Mr. Daly, Private Secretary, returned to Kudat, after a lengthened stay on the East Coast, by the launch *Sabine* on the evening of the 17th May and left, after the departure of the Hongkong mail steamer, for Labuan and Brunei on the 23rd by the *S. S. Borneo*. Mrs. Treacher and her infant daughter was also passengers by the *Borneo*, having decided to make a short visit to England, after which she will rejoin the Governor in North Borneo. Gaya was reached in the evening and the Governor's party landed and made a brief inspection of the new settlement. Good progress has been made here and the Chinese traders wore an air of contentment and prosperity, and the natives of the coast are visiting the station in increasing numbers, bringing the produce of their rivers, seas, and jungles, in the shape of tortoise-shell, gutta, rubber, birds' nests, camphor, beeswax, &c. A well built jetty has been carried out into twenty feet of water and a comfortable residence for the officer in charge nearly completed on a prominence whence a lovely view of Kinabalu and the opposite coast is to be obtained. Amongst the newly arrived Chinese there were a few cases of fever.

The *Borneo* cast anchor in the Brunei river on the evening of the 24th—Queen's birthday—about half a mile below the capital, and immediately opposite the residence of Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Agent. It was found that there are some twenty-three British subjects residing at Brunei and on the 26th the Governor and Mrs. Treacher gave a dinner in honor of Her Majesty's birthday, Captain Edwards kindly placing the steamer at their disposal for the purpose and assisting in gaily decorating the ship with flags, coloured lanterns, ferns, orchids and jungle foliage. Fourteen guests including Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Agent sat down, all British subjects, with the exception of Mr. Meyerink, a German gentleman, who has been visiting North Borneo for the purpose of selecting a large acreage of agricultural land on behalf of his Firm in Hongkong. The British subjects were of various nationalities, English, Malay, Chinese, Eurasian and In-

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The *Borneo* sailed for Labuan on the 27th and left that port for Singapore late at night on the 28th taking on their homeward journey Mrs. Treacher, and Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Duberley of the Company's service. The *Borneo* was able to fill up with cargo at Labuan and it would seem that the failing trade of the colony has received an impetus of late.

The Governor and Mr. Daly sailed for Papar in the Government launch *Kimanis* at midnight of the 29th and anchored at the mouth of the Papar river early next morning, alongside H.M.S. *Fly*, Commander J. Hope, R.N. The Assistant Resident, Mr. G. L. Davies, very kindly arranged a drive for deer for the Governor and the officers of the gun-boat. Some one hundred and fifty natives took part in it, but as they persisted in beating the jungle in single file (one behind the other) the result was not encouraging. The pigeons, however, afforded good sport and Captain Hope and Mr. Davies brought in twenty-eight brace between them.

On the following morning Mr. Dent arrived from Kudat and Gaya in the *S. S. Royalist*, accompanied by Mr. R. Gordon Wickham (Private Secretary) and Mr. S. E. Dalrymple of Kudat. A pleasant day was spent in inspecting the station. The Dyak Police were put through their drill in a way which reflected much credit on their drill instructor. In their serviceable kakhoo uniforms these lithe and active fellows looked just the men for a country force. The effects of the late disastrous floods are gradually being obliterated, but there is little doubt that the people have been much impoverished by it, and there was not in

anchor in the Harbour.

On the following morning the Governor of Labuan gave a farewell breakfast to Mr. Dent and in a few appropriate words wished him God speed and success to his great enterprise in North Borneo. A guard of honor of Sikhs was provided by the colony and at noon Mr. Dent embarked on board H.M.S. *Fly*, Commander Hope, R. N., having very courteously offered him a passage to Singapore, there being no other vessel available at the time. Three hearty cheers were given for Mr. Dent who sailed with the best wishes, mingled with regrets at his departure, of the Governor and other officers of North Borneo who happened to be at Labuan.

As the *Fly* left the harbour the British yacht *Marchesa* entered it from the north, Mr. and Mrs. Kettlewell having paid a visit to some of the beautiful harbours and rivers on the West Coast,—Banguey, Abai, Gaya and Kimanis. Mr. Kettlewell appears to be much interested with what he has seen in North Borneo, and is likely to invest in agricultural land at Sandakan and Marudu Bay. At Kudat he acquired a few town lots at a recent sale.

On the 9th June an interesting pair-oared boat race took place. Governor Treacher and Mr. Bampfylde rowing against Captain Vereker, R. N. and Mr. Kettlewell. The distance was about eight hundred yards, from the white buoy to the *Maggie*. The race was keenly contested every inch of the way, but when it is said that Mrs. Kettlewell had very kindly consented to act as coxswain for her husband's boat—a post which she filled with wonderful grace and skill—it is needless to add that her boat proved the winner, reaching the goal nearly one length in advance of the Governor's boat.

On the 11th Mr. and Mrs. Kettlewell and party sailed to Brunei in the Company's launch *Kimanis*, the *Marchesa* with fifteen feet being unable to cross the bar, and H.M.S. *Champion* and H.M.S. *Maggie* sailed for Kudat, the Governor and Mr. Daly availing themselves of Captain Vereker's kind offer of a passage in the latter vessel. Off Simpangmangaio point Assistant Resident Mr. E. P. Gueritz was picked up in an open boat two days out from Abai bound for Kudat, and right glad was he to exchange his frail craft for the well known hospitality of the *Maggies*. On the 17th the Governor and Private Secretary sailed in the *Borneo* to Sandakan, where it is expected they will make a lengthened stay.

consequence the same air of go-a-headed observance as on the Governor's last visit. Aputation of chiefs from the Membakut and Bawan rivers waited on the Governor and Mr. I and begged that their rivers might be taken by the Company. They were informed the m was in the hands of the Brunei authorities. It pears that most severe exactions have been le on these people of late by the Brunei Rajahs a large body of them have moved across to the manis, where they have temporarily located themselves anxiously awaiting the advent of the Company's government in their rivers. There see however, little prospect of the Rajahs parting present with these rivers whence there is no considerable trade in sago and jungle produce.

On the 1st June anchor was weighed in *Royalist* and *Kimanis* and after a short halt at the ty station of Kimanis, Labuan was reached the s night. At noon the next day the Governor, Mr. fred Dent and party, consisting of Messrs. I and R. Gordon Wickham, Mr. Bampfylde, Sub-F dent of the East Coast, and Mr. Davies, Assis Resident of Papar and Gaya, proceeded on to Bri in the *Royalist* and *Kimanis* anchoring off the tan's Palace the same night. H.M.S. *Maggie*, voyaging vessel, Commander Hon. F. P. Foley V ker, R. N., was passed at the mouth of the Bri river, and she found sufficient depth of water posite the Muara coal mines, for vessels draw eighteen feet.

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