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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED
UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER. REPORT OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Caribbean and Western Atlantic Territories

BRITISH HONDURAS^{1/}

1/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1332 (XIII) this summary is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

59-09330

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NOTE: The following symbols are used:

Three dots (...)	data not available
Dash (-)	magnitude nil or negligible
Slash 1948/1949	crop or financial year
Hyphen 1948-1949	annual average

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GENERAL INFORMATION

British Honduras is situated on the Caribbean coast of Central America, bounded on the north and west by Mexico and on the west and south by Guatemala. Its total area is 8,866 square miles including the islets known as "cayes". Rainfall varies considerably from year to year, but ranges from an average of fifty-one inches per year in the north to 175 inches in the extreme south; a dry season extends from February to the end of May. The territory has been struck occasionally by hurricanes. Negroes and persons of Negro extraction are numerically predominant, followed by the Maya Indians, who represent about 17 per cent of total population, and the Caribs, who form about 7 per cent. The capital is Belize, which has the largest concentration of population, some 38,000 in 1956. The main languages are English and Spanish.

POPULATION

<u>1 July 1947</u>	<u>1 July 1953</u>	<u>1 July 1956</u>	<u>1 July 1957</u>
60,790	74,610	81,779	83,590

Vital statistics

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 population	40.7	40.0	43.2
Death rate per 1,000 population	17.3	11.0	11.1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	120.1	87.4	92.4

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Intensive concentration on one export has been a general characteristic of West Indian economy. What sugar has been to the (British) West Indies, forestry - more particularly mahogany lumber - has been to British Honduras. The forest industries are the principal economic activity and are seasonal, being usually

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confined to the first six months of the year, when the dry weather permits logging; however, chicle bleeding is undertaken during the wet season as rain induces a good flow of gum from the tree. Together, they provide the largest single source of employment. Other activities of importance are agriculture and fisheries. The coconut industry has been on the decline for many years. Uncertainty of markets has led to neglect of maintenance with consequent deterioration of holdings; the only holdings showing improvement are those which have been replanted as part of a hurricane relief measure in 1956.

In recent years, however, there has been a considerable expansion in agriculture. Rice production, in particular, has been accelerated, one half of it being used for domestic consumption. The citrus and sugar industries are now safely established and seem capable of much expansion. A small exportable surplus of corn is already produced, and the efforts of a number of private farmers are indicating other possibilities. These efforts at diversification are meeting with gradual success, but the economy is still dependent on forestry, exports of forestry products reaching record levels in 1955.

When the pound sterling was devalued in September 1949, the currency of British Honduras alone among the United Kingdom Territories remained unaltered, and the British Honduras dollar continued at parity with that of the United States of America. As a result, sterling investors reduced or suspended their activities owing to the unfavourable rate of exchange, and the development and economic life of the Territory were brought to a standstill. The attempt to hold the value of the dollar had to be abandoned in face of the unfavourable effects on the economy and on the last day of 1949 the British Honduras dollar was linked to sterling at the rate of \$4.00 to the pound.^{2/}

On the whole, the economy has expanded despite setbacks, largely because of the momentum generated by the initiation of development projects and the expenditure of funds under United Kingdom Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. Although not spectacular, this trend was steady up to and including 1953. Although adverse weather affected the forest industries badly during 1954, the over-all effects were mitigated by results in other industries, some in their initial stages

^{2/} The British Honduras dollar (\$BH) is thus equal to 5s. (sterling) or \$US0.70.

and others recently expanded. The buying power of the public remained strong. This relative stability resulted partly from the many development and marketing schemes which had been started in the years immediately preceding 1954. A disastrous hurricane in 1955, however, brought a further setback. The amount of damage to property exceeded \$4 million. The corn crop of the northern district, almost ready for harvesting, was destroyed. Coconut and fruit trees and market produce suffered very badly. Sugar cane was badly damaged and timber forests were affected as well. The town of Corozal was destroyed and about one-eighth of the country was devastated. The economic slump continued despite the rise in import-export figures, as the trade deficit continued to expand, going from \$4.1 million in 1954 to about \$6.2 million in 1955 and 1956. Although the trade report for 1956 showed some encouraging signs, the salient economic fact of that year was the Government's inability to carry on any longer with the limited form of grant-in-aid which had been introduced in 1952, and the Territory reverted to full grant-in-aid status.

Towards the end of the decade, efforts were being continued to develop the natural resources and Colonial Development and Welfare supplementary allocations were approved. Under a United States technical co-operation programme, signed in Washington in 1955, arrangements were being worked out for the engagement of experts in agricultural extension, housing and other fields.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The pattern of agricultural development has been influenced in the past principally by three main factors: the great economic importance and long period of existence of the forest industry, the shifting "milpa" system of farming, dependent upon the use of the machete and fire, and the scattered nature of cultivation which is confined largely to the coastal and riverside areas and in many instances limited to annual tenancies. The general effect of these factors is that agriculture is not yet firmly established, and there still remain large tracts of land which are still unused. By 1952, it had been fully realized that with forest resources rapidly dwindling, agricultural development was essential to sustain the economy.

With the introduction of the second part of the development plan in 1952, the Government was for the first time able to obtain adequate funds and start a programme for establishing agriculture on a more permanent footing. The plans approved were concerned primarily with the provision of the essential framework and services for future developments.

Citrus and coconuts are mainly produced on small estates. Small farmers engaged in the latter activity are scattered through the coastal areas and cayes. Bananas are produced by small farmers, principally for local consumption; sugar cane is grown by small estates and peasant producers; and the production of maize, rice and red kidney beans is carried out throughout the Territory generally by small farmers, as well as by a few private estates.

At the end of 1957, the increasing emphasis being placed on agriculture was showing good results. The rehabilitation of the industries and areas devastated by the hurricane in 1955 was started in 1956. There are eight schemes involved in this: three for grant and loan assistance to farmers in the coconut, citrus and sugar industries. Two other schemes provide for the establishment of communal piggeries and communal experimental farm units, while another will enable the establishment of nurseries for the replacement of fruit trees destroyed by the high winds.

In 1954, positive steps were taken for the rehabilitation of the sugar industry in the northern district. The old machinery was renovated and new machinery ordered. An assured export quota of 5,000 tons was secured at the Commonwealth Sugar Association meeting towards the end of 1953. It was reaffirmed in November 1956 that the over-all export quota of up to 25,000 tons under the terms and conditions of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement would remain available to British Honduras provided that, by the time of the Commonwealth sugar talks in 1959, the land, labour and necessary funds were available and orders had been placed for the factory capacity needed for the production of sugar for export on such a scale. The acreage under sugar has approximately tripled during the period under consideration.

A Marketing Board, a government-sponsored agency, has as its main functions the purchase of selected crops at guaranteed prices, the processing and storing of these crops, and the sale thereof, either locally or abroad. In addition, the

Board provides farmers with the use of drying and threshing facilities at nominal charges, and makes loans to them. The Board has been instrumental in increasing agricultural production to a greater extent than the volume of its purchases might suggest because large portions of the crops are retained by peasant farmers for their own use. An assured market and base prices for certain crops encourage farmers to increase their output. Traders must either offer the farmers better prices than the Board or buy their requirements from that agency, which resells its purchases at prices fixed to cover the purchase price plus expenses.

An important step in the continuing improvement in the citrus industry resulted from the report of a Citrus Fact Finding Commission and from discussions in London during 1955 between a British Caribbean delegation and the Colonial Office. A three-year marketing agreement was then signed which should assure stability to the industry for the next three seasons by the setting up of a fund to guarantee prices to growers and fixed profits to processors. This should have the additional effect of stabilizing employment in the Stann Creek Valley where the growing of citrus has become concentrated. During the period under consideration the acreage under citrus cultivation has increased about six times to 8,400 acres in 1957.

A Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for cocoa is progressing slowly, but large-scale planting has been undertaken by commercial interests which are developing 2,000 to 3,000 acres of the crop. The Colonial Development Corporation has also established a small cocoa area on its citrus plantation; and reports on the quality of the first shipment from this area are very good.

Rice production had become substantial, having risen from 640,000 lbs. in 1953 to slightly more than 1,400,000 lbs. in 1957. At least 50 per cent of the creole rice crop is retained by farmers for their own consumption. A pilot project, commenced in 1954 with Colonial Development and Welfare funds to determine the feasibility of large-scale production of rice on a mechanized basis, achieved good results in 1957. Rice, maize and beans are the three principal staple food crops now grown, much of the production being purchased by the Marketing Board. The value of the production of these crops in 1956 was \$322,000.

Principal crops

	<u>Production</u>			<u>Area (acres)</u>		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Maize (long tons)	...	785 <u>a/</u>	560,191 <u>b/</u>	12,450	15,500	15,000
Rice (000 lb.)	...	546 <u>c/</u>	1,311	2,460	2,200	2,300
Coconuts (000)	3,394	1,425 <u>a/</u>	431	6,550	7,700	7,700
Root crop	...	...	...	2,000	...	1,500
Plantains, bananas (stems)	...	27,166	45,139 <u>a/</u>	3,300	500 <u>d/</u>	700
Citrus (000 lbs.)	6,000 <u>a/</u>	9,347	35,088	1,700	3,939	8,400
Sugar cane (long tons)	1,239	2,626	7,824 <u>e/</u>	1,750	2,750	6,500 <u>e/</u>

a/ Exports.b/ Thousand pounds.c/ Purchased by Marketing Board.d/ Bananas only.e/ 1957.Livestock

At the present time, the problems confronting the establishment of a sound livestock industry are primarily a lack of the appreciation of the standards required for proper stock management, a lack of proper pastures and the capital to establish and fence them, the high costs of clearing land, and the lack of good quality stock for improving herds. In 1951, it was reported that some thirty-two large owners held nearly 50 per cent of the cattle. Meat is in very short supply and there is no local dairy industry. The Central Farm Foundation herds are being established to prove and demonstrate better methods, to provide improved stock, and to undertake trials of improved pasture and feeding. In 1956, the sum of \$135,000 was provided to promote the development of the beef cattle industry by granting subsidies for various improvements such as imported breeding stock; the subsidies were limited to 50 per cent of landed costs, with a maximum of \$3,000 per farmer. A good start has been made and additional funds have been applied for.

Livestock

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u> a/
Cattle	16,650	15,644	20,000
Pigs	11,300	20,000	22,000
Horses	4,200	3,500	1,700
Poultry	68,700	90,200	...

a/ Estimates.

FORESTRY

The high quality and value of the abundant and varied forest products and the ease with which they could be brought down the many rivers to the coast were the primary reasons for the first British settlement, and the forest industry continues to this day to be the main support of British Honduras.

About 46 per cent of the total land area of 8,867 square miles is regarded as best suited for forestry. About 1,390 square miles are privately owned, 1,767 square miles are forest reserve and the remainder is Crown Land suitable for forest reservation. About 50 per cent of the forest reserves can at present be regarded as accessible to exploitation, the remainder being in difficult mountain country, but this situation is changing with the development of access roads.

The main products, mahogany and cedar logs and lumber, pine lumber and chicle, are all being over-exploited at present. It is certain that pine production must decline to a considerable degree within the next five years. The situation regarding stocks of mahogany is more difficult to estimate. A timber survey was completed in 1956 with Colonial Development and Welfare funds over the most important Crown forest areas. With the help of new aerial photography undertaken in 1955, an important step towards sustained-yield working has been taken by the issuance of long-term forest licences providing for fixed annual maximum yields of mahogany, cedar and mixed hardwoods.

The forest industry is organized for production by individuals and by companies. The bulk of the annual output is exported, and the needs of the local inhabitants are met entirely by domestic production. There are thirty sawmills, all in private ownership.

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The export of mahogany lumber reached the record level of some 1.5 million cubic feet in 1957, as compared with about 800,000 cubic feet in 1947, the increase being due partly to the operation of several small new mills and to the full-scale operation from 1955 of the largest government licensee. On the other hand, pine lumber exports declined severely after 1953. This is attributed to uncertainty about the possible disposal of pine lands on the southern coast which prevented the development of new licence areas. Moreover, the largest company operating in that region was prevented by early rains from developing a good road to its main logging area.

Chicle is basic to chewing gum. Crown gum is another product obtained by tapping trees of the family Sapotaceae. These are both produced in the rains by chicleros, the individual contractors, who produce from 500 to 2,000 lbs. of chicle a season. The largest markets are found in Canada and the United States of America, exports having declined to 154 long tons.

In 1948, an eight-year forest regeneration and reforestation programme, incorporating a grant of \$200,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, was approved and immediately put into effect. At the end of 1957, the progress of this afforestation and regeneration programme augured well for the future prosperity of the lumber trade.

A Timber Mission from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was sent to the Territory in 1952, and its report stressed the need for better sawmilling and seasoning and for the grading of export lumber. It also recommended the development of Santa Maria as an export lumber. This latter recommendation is being carried out; from 1,600 cubic feet in 1952, exports rose to 139,000 board feet in 1955.

Technical assistance in production and in marketing was received from the International Cooperation Administration of the United States Government in 1955, and from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The first British Honduran forester completed his training in Cyprus and returned to the Territory in 1955. Two others were in training in 1956.

Exports of forest products
(thousand cubic feet and thousand British Honduras dollars)

	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1956</u>	
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>
Mahogany:						
Logs)	810	522	251	739	53	147
Lumber)		1,090	5,480	1,409	1,303	2,260
Pine lumber	...	157	10,672	1,774	1,163	1,198
Chicle (tons)	634	1,311	390	834	282	...

FISHERIES

The coastal waters carry a large variety of tropical fish. Amberjack, kingfish, Spanish mackerel and many other game fish are plentiful.

Stocks of food fish are ample for domestic needs and for an export trade far greater than at present. Between 1953 and 1956, the estimated number of 400 full-time and 200 part-time commercial fishermen, 250 of whom also engage in crawfishing, has remained fairly constant. Crawfishing is limited to the open season from July to March. During the same period, the number of fishing boats had increased 100 per cent to some 400. There are a few motor craft, fitted with either outboard or inboard engines, but they are used chiefly for transporting fish and crawfish to the local markets and export buyers. Most of the fishermen work on their own account, either singly or in groups, selling their catch directly to the public or to exporters. A few are wage-earners.

The Government operates a cold storage plant with limited capacity and without deep freezing facilities. The main exporting company is United States owned and operates its own freezing plant, with a capacity of twenty-five tons, which it allows fishermen to use. In this plant, about 90 per cent of the crawfish caught are processed for export. One half of the capital invested in crawfishing has come from the United States, the other half being raised locally. Cash advances are made to fishermen by crawfish buyers towards the cost of boats, engines, iceboxes and other equipment, repayable by deductions from the proceeds of deliveries.

A fishery officer, appointed in 1950, is mainly responsible for improving fishing and salting methods and the equipment and status of fishermen. A private

trust provided a launch for the fishery officer and the cost of the fishery services is being met from a Colonial Development and Welfare grant.

Marine produce exported
 (Long tons and British Honduras dollars)

	<u>1951</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1956</u>	
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>
Conches	260	16	8,375	1,237	16,298	1,927
Dried-salted fish	25,081	3,530	28,883	5,206	56,090	11,797
Fresh fish	25,037	3,397	62,696	16,204	33,536	5,086
Lobsters	177,289	30,543	157,988	78,307	159,559	124,802
Shrimp	...	...	2,275	1,500	...	...

PCWER

In Belize, electrical power is supplied by the Government through an Electricity Board. The demand for electricity has steadily increased. It led, in 1954, to a government decision to construct a new ferro-concrete power station located on the outskirts of the capital. The Electricity Board has been empowered to borrow money for this project, which was completed in 1956, and for other purposes. Several towns, through their town boards, operate small plants. There were 2,500 consumers in 1947 and 3,200 in 1953.

INDUSTRY

Sawmilling is the most important industry; the establishment of light industries is making slow headway. There are no large-scale factories, other than the Corozal sugar factory and a citrus factory. There are several boat builders, one of whom does a small export trade in sailing and power craft, and some enterprises producing edible oils, soap, furniture, doors and windows, and footwear for the local trade.

The Social Development Department runs a cottage industries training and marketing centre.

The Colonial Development Corporation built a hotel in 1953 in Belize which is now operated by a United States concern under a management contract.

At the end of the decade, negotiations were in effect for the establishment of a pulp and paper mill based upon the pine forest of the southern coastal plain, and for a plywood factory based on hardwoods. Owners of American capital were showing interest in these developments.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The main emphasis in the first part of the development plan was placed on the development of roads, which absorbed approximately 74 per cent of the available funds. By 1954, the programme of road construction was well advanced and included the completion of some important new main roads and some 100 miles of feeder roads. This resulted in increased agricultural activity and has encouraged the continuity of the main emphasis during 1955 to 1960 on roads, bridges and other means of communication. However, because of the high annual recurrent charge on the local budget for road maintenance, the Government has decided that normally only those feeder roads will be constructed which lead to or pass through potentially productive areas available for development. Started in 1944, the Humming Bird Highway, some thirty-two miles long, and its many bridges were completed in April 1954; it was financed by a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. The establishment of regular bus services which followed the new road construction has contributed much to the opening up of the country to further development.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Main and feeder roads (miles)	265	400	418
Secondary roads (miles)	154	162	162
Number of motor vehicles	386	852	1,013

There is an international airport, known as Stanley Field, situated about nine miles from Belize. In 1956, there were five airlines operating scheduled air services, an increase of two over the 1947 total. There are also a municipal airport and fifteen strips suitable for light aircraft but without servicing facilities. A subsidiary of British West Indies Airlines provides domestic air services to the principal district towns and outlying airstrips adjoining lumber camps. The Government has negotiated an agreement with this line which guarantees a reasonable inland air service for some time to come. Domestic air services transported 3,431 passengers in 1956 and 2,722 in 1957.

International air traffic

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Passengers:	...	5,621	10,876 <u>a/</u>
Arrivals	...	2,204	4,572
Departures	...	2,417	4,782
Freight (000 lbs.):			
Incoming	...	69 <u>b/</u>	877
Outgoing	...	140 <u>b/</u>	...
Aircraft movements	2,602	1,952	3,208 <u>a/</u>
Inward	...	976	1,444
Outward	...	976	1,444

a/ 1957.
b/ Metric tons.

The main port is Belize. There are no docks, deep-water quays or piers. Cargo is transported from ship to shore and vice versa in large scows and barges towed by small diesel and petrol-powered tugs. In 1956, there were seven steamship companies, compared with two in 1947, operating regular services, connecting the Territory with Europe, Jamaica, northern and southern ports in the United States and the United Kingdom. It is recognized that deep-water piers are necessary to cope with the present volume of traffic, and provision is made for this in the development plan 1955-1960.

Ships, tonnage, cargo

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Number of vessels:			
Steam)		559	539
Sail)	935	910	1,199
Tonnage (000):			
Entered)		258	311
Cleared)	190	...	302
Cargo discharged (000 tonnage)	...	...	248
Cargo loaded	...	...	168

In 1956, a consultant engineer visited British Honduras at the request of the Government to advise on schemes for the replacement of the existing obsolete Belize telephone system by a modern network embracing the districts. The report is being considered by the Government.

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The existing Belize magneto-ringing telephone system, installed some twenty years ago, is at present operating at full capacity. The number of telephones has risen to 863 in 1956, as compared with some 565 in 1947. There are non-automatic internal as well as external radio-telegraph communication facilities.

PUBLIC FINANCE

To meet the cost of relief and reconstruction required as a result of a severe hurricane in 1951 the United Kingdom made a considerable loan to British Honduras. It also provided grants-in-aid of administration which continued each year to 1950, to enable the budget to be balanced. These grants entailed detailed control of the Territory's finances by the United Kingdom.

The utmost economy was exercised and revenues were increased. Import duties on such items as beer, tobacco, petrol were increased and export duties on logs and sawn pine wood and on tobacco and rum were raised. The largest revenue was obtained in 1953 when a surplus of \$250,000 was achieved. However, the financial situation deteriorated and in 1956 there was a substantial deficit. As a result, British Honduras had to revert to full grant-in-aid status to enable the Government to maintain its services at a satisfactory level.

Revenue and expenditure
 (thousands of British Honduras dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Revenue			
Ordinary	2,506	4,005	4,770
Expenditure			
Ordinary	2,909	5,528	5,584
Main heads of revenue:			
Customs	1,227	1,881	2,339
Internal taxation	639	1,262	1,576
Self-balancing revenue (posts, telephone- telegraph, electricity)	226	308	197
Grants-in-aid	...	207 a/	1,250 a/
Colonial Development and Welfare	435	1,458	1,973
Main heads of expenditure:			
Administration	1,381	1,879	3,041
Social services, education, health, welfare	476	936	1,323
Self-balancing expenditure (posts, telephone- telegraph, electricity)	244	192	265
Public Works	154	248	239 b/
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	433	1,474	1,741

a/ Special United Kingdom grants.
 b/ Non-recurrent.

Development finance

It should be noted that during the period from 1948 to 1953, the Government raised loans for development amounting to \$837,000. That the Territory was becoming aware of the importance of its own efforts in development was shown by the fact that about 50 per cent of this amount was subscribed locally. There is a Development Board composed of representatives of various interests; an Agricultural Credit Bank with initial capital provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act; and a Concessions Committee which considers applications from business for development incentives relating to income tax and customs duties.

The original development plan was prepared on the assumption that nearly all the financial requirements would be met either from Colonial Development and Welfare funds or from loans raised on the London market or elsewhere.

In spite of the successful beginning of the third development plan (1952-1956), the greater part of the task remained unfinished by March 1956, but it was expected that much progress would be made during the period 1957-1960. The main emphasis during this period is placed on the further development of forestry and agriculture, as well as on the construction of roads, bridges and other communications which will make such development feasible. To this end, a further allocation of £500,000 sterling from Colonial Development and Welfare funds was made in 1957 to enable the acceleration of the projects.

During the period from 1945 to 1956, British Honduras was allocated the sum of £2.25 million sterling. One hundred schemes totalling £2.19 million sterling were approved up to the end of 1954. In addition, the Territory has received various grants for other schemes amounting to about £575,000 sterling.

BANKING AND CREDIT

Two commercial banks, the second established in 1949, and the government savings bank with a branch in each district generally satisfy the banking needs of British Honduras. Agricultural credit is available from the Agricultural Credits Fund which is financed by Development and Welfare funds. Out of a capital fund of \$500,000, a total of \$350,000 was out on loan at the end of 1957.

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Government savings banks

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Number of banks	6	5	5
Number of depositors	7,348	9,268	9,197
Deposits (000)	1,740	1,991	2,070

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The trend of the import-export trade during the period under review has been upward, except in 1949. In that year there was a drought but, more importantly, a trade slump was precipitated by the devaluation of the pound sterling. Following the devaluation of the British Honduras dollar, export trade quickly recovered. In particular, there was a substantial rise in the export of pine, which in 1953 accounted for 26 per cent of the value of total exports. In 1954, when forest products amounted to 71 per cent of total domestic exports, agricultural products were next with 25 per cent.

Imports and exports

(thousands of British Honduras dollars)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u> a/	<u>1956</u>
Imports	8,656	11,767	15,851
Exports a/	6,143	7,500	9,973
Principal imports:			
Machinery	...	939	2,161 b/
Metal manufactures	...	787	1,125
Motor vehicles	218	109	570
Flour, milk, fats	510 c/	1,889	2,025
Textile and products	570	990	1,241
Fuel	...	1,116	1,369
Principal exports:			
Citrus	417	849	2,343
Timber, logs	1,247 d/	4,242	3,775
Chicle	1,670	834	583
Sugar	...	126	298
Lobsters	...	78	125

a/ Including re-exports. With effect from January 1953, trade classifications were changed to conform to standard international trade statistical practice.

b/ Including electrical machinery.

c/ Flour only.

d/ Lumber only.

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Direction of trade
(percentage of total value)

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
		Exports	
United Kingdom	...	30.0	37.1
United States of America	...	27.3	24.8
Mexico	...	4.3	14.4
Jamaica	...	22.4	12.5
Other countries	...	16.0	11.2
		Imports	
United Kingdom	...	34.6	30.9
United States of America	...	30.3	40.3
Trinidad	...	6.3	8.3
Other countries	...	28.8	20.5

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The inter-mixing of races explains the absence of racial problems. Accordingly, there are no laws safeguarding the population from discrimination. Women have equal rights with men, except in the case of jury duty.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

On the whole, the period under review has seen an improvement in industrial relations. In recent years the Department of Labour has become increasingly concerned with conciliation and the settlement of disputes as well as the encouragement of employers and workers to practise collective bargaining. It also enforces legislation regarding conditions of employment, collects statistics relating to employment and living costs, renders assistance and guidance to those interested in forming unions, and registers the unemployed as part of its job placement function. In 1955, the Labour Department undertook a comprehensive review of labour legislation with the aim of bringing it up to date.

Conditions of employment

Employment in British Honduras is dependent to a great extent upon seasonal industries. This leads to a constant movement of workers from one area to another in search of employment in agricultural and forest occupations, and, since the prosperity of these activities is dependent on the weather, the pattern of employment changes from year to year. Consequently, seasonal unemployment as well as under-employment between seasons still characterize job opportunities. When climatic conditions are unsuitable for one of the major activities, unemployment reaches serious proportions.

In 1946, more than two-thirds of those engaged in agriculture were workers on their own account: one quarter of the working population was thus engaged in peasant farming. The others were predominantly wage-earners engaged in plantation agriculture and forestry or in secondary industry and services. It was reported in 1955 that the proportions had probably changed very little since 1946. Employment statistics lack precision and are incomplete, the figures having been supplied voluntarily by employers.

Forestry and agriculture, in that order, provide the main sources of private employment, with some 2,300 workers in 1956, followed by manufacturing and repair, where some 1,500 were employed in the same year. Migrant workers are employed seasonally in Guatemala and Mexico and were, until 1955 when the last British Hondurans were repatriated, similarly employed in the United States under the West Indian farming labour scheme.

Generally, hours of work are forty-eight per week.

There is legislation in respect of: trade disputes and arbitration; establishment and registration of trade unions; minimum wages; employment of women, young persons, and children; safety and other conditions of factory employment.

Wage earners

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Primary production	4,041	3,471	...
Secondary production	1,589	2,175	...
Services	695	2,670	...
Agriculture, livestock	...	...	917
Forestry:			
Logging	...	...	816
Sapodilla gum	...	...	705
Manufacture and repair	...	...	2,875
Government service	...	...	977
Retail trade			} 1,724
Transportation and communications			

Wage rates

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
Labourers:			
Logging <u>a/</u>	\$20-\$23	\$28	\$30-\$40
Agriculture <u>b/</u>	1.00	2.50	2.50
Coconut <u>b/</u>	1.00	1.25-1.75	1.25-1.75
Processing of fish <u>c/</u>	...	\$6-14	\$15
Carpenters <u>b/</u>	2.25-3.80	2.78-3.82	3.10-4.70

a/ Monthly plus rations at \$2.50 weekly.

b/ Daily.

c/ Weekly.

Workers' organizations

During the period under consideration, the number of registered trade unions grew from three to six in 1956. In 1952, total trade union membership amounted to some 9,500 representing 40 per cent of the labour force. In 1956, the largest union in British Honduras, the General Workers Union of approximately 12,000 members, split into two, the splinter group forming a new union, the Christian Democratic Union.

The development of techniques of collective bargaining is progressing. The General Workers Union has negotiated agreements with the largest employer in the timber industry, recognizing the union and the freedom of employers to join it, and providing for the appointment of shop stewards and reasonable access to the employer's premises for the union officials. This marked a new phase in relations in that industry.

The Government requires that all persons granted forest licences should undertake the recognition of the rights of workers to organize themselves for bona fide trade union activities as well as the right of access of trade union organizers to camps and sawmills for genuine trade union activities. A similar requirement is included in each contract let for public works, as well as a fair wage clause which calls for the payment of wages and the observance of working conditions no less favourable than those afforded by the Government to its own workers.

Two members of the Labour Department have been sent to the United Kingdom for training with the Ministry of Labour. A labour advisor from the United Kingdom under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme was seconded to the Territory to advise the Government on all labour and trade union matters and to promote better industrial relations. In addition, five trade union officers were sent to Barbados and Jamaica for trade union courses. In 1955, the Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores (ORIT) held a seminar for members of the General Workers Union, its only local affiliate. Courses given included trade union accounting, labour law and collective bargaining.

Organizations

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Number	3	3	6
Membership	2,446	11,034	...

Vocational education

The Government operates an apprenticeship programme in some of its departments, such as telecommunications, public works, printing and surveying. An Apprenticeship Committee which functioned during 1955-1956 produced a draft ordinance to provide for a regulated system of apprenticeship. This was under consideration at the end of 1957.

A number of inhabitants of the Territory are sent abroad for training in agriculture and forestry and in such other technical subjects as draughtsmanship and mechanics. Apart from Government resources, this training is assisted by the United Nations, the International Cooperation Administration of the United States and Colonial Development and Welfare grants.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

A new department was established in 1954 to promote, organize and supervise all co-operative societies. It is financed by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant and assumed the functions formerly discharged by the Social Development Department in this respect. The first Credit Union League, with a membership of twenty unions, was registered in 1956, affiliated with the Credit Union National Association of the United States.

Number and membership

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Membership</u>			<u>Share capital</u> (thousand BH\$)		
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Credit Unions	...	22	32	...	4,559	7,522	...	186	326
Marketing	...	6	6	...	...	530	...	...	2
Consumers	...	4	3	...	923	607	...	33	29
Junior, Senior Savings Unions...		41	44	...	1,554	2,100	...	3	7

STANDARD OF LIVING

An index is maintained by the Labour Department based on a budget survey of 100 families with an income of less than \$15 per week in 1942. It has been recognized that the present index does not accurately reflect price changes and a visit from an expert from the International Labour Organisation was scheduled for 1957 in connexion with the revision of the index and the conduct of a cost-of-living survey. During 1953, many local price controls were abolished. A year later, the only items still controlled were cattle, hogs, fresh meat (beef and pork), petroleum products, rice, sugar and cassava starch. The index stood at 259 in May when the de-control started; it had declined to 255 by March of the following year. Between 1953 and 1957, the prices of staple items of food, such as bread, flour, rice, meat, remained fairly constant while some others, such as fresh fish, had increased in price.

Cost-of-living index
September 1939=100

December 1947	December 1953	December 1957
206	256	258

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

The housing situation is serious. The annual need for new houses to take care of the natural increase in population of about 2,000 a year, when superimposed upon other long-standing needs, indicates an immediate requirement of 1,000 new houses in the urban areas. Except in the northern area of the country, which was stricken by hurricanes in 1955, the needs of the rural areas have not been assessed. In the northern area itself, a survey has revealed a demand for 1,200 new houses in the rural area and 400 in the urban areas. Current construction of houses is estimated as 100 a year. The situation in Belize is particularly critical because of the unabated exodus from the rural areas of people who have forsaken the land in search of more lucrative occupations. Land for residential expansion is not available unless swamp land at the edge of the city is reclaimed at considerable cost. A housing scheme in Belize is being pursued as fast as funds allow, calling

for the construction of sixteen reinforced concrete three-bedroom houses under an aided self-help scheme. Thirteen low-cost rental two-bedroom houses have been built in a slum-clearance scheme. Under the reconstruction programme in Corozal, a similar self-help scheme is in progress. About 400 low-cost dwellings are being built by aided self-help, contract and direct loans for hurricane victims on a twenty-year repayment basis, and about thirty low-rental houses for the old and the indigent. The Central Housing and Planning Authority is the government agency responsible. In 1955, it commenced an experimental aided self-help project under the guidance of an International Cooperation Administration housing team. Government policy calls for the creation of a greater proportion of home ownership especially among the working class. To achieve this, the establishment of a housing loan bank is contemplated.

SOCIAL SECURITY

There is no system of social insurance. The limiting factors for the introduction of such a system are reportedly the low national income; the inability of the population to contribute to insurance funds in view of the low level of economic activity; persistent unemployment; and the fact that a substantial proportion of persons is not dependent on wage earning. In 1948, a Workmen's Compensation law, including coverage for agricultural workers, came into effect, placing on employers an obligation to pay compensation in case of incapacity caused by industrial accidents. In 1957, an accident and occupational disease ordinance was enacted providing for compulsory notification of accident and industrial disease. Insurance coverage is provided by various private firms; although the majority of employers are covered, such insurance is not compulsory. The settlement of claims is usually achieved by mutual agreement, often through the mediation of the Labour Department. There were 228 accidents in 1951, for which some \$4,800 was paid in compensation, and 291 in 1955, for which about \$7,400 was paid.

SOCIAL WELFARE

There is no provision by the Government of old-age pensions or for relief in case of illness. Public assistance to the aged and destitute is administered through an Outdoor Relief Committee headed by the social development officer.

The accepted rate is \$1.00 per week compared with 75 cents in 1947. Special cases may receive \$2.00. A rest house providing night shelter and warm beverages for old and helpless men is operated by the Salvation Army assisted by a government subvention of \$900 annually. Friendly societies provide sickness and death benefits to paying members. Welfare activities are restricted to family case-work by the local branch of the British Red Cross and to public assistance. Expenditure for public assistance during 1957 was about \$48,000 compared with a little over \$30,000 in 1947.

Community development

Various forms of community development were promoted for some years through the influence of rural school teachers, missionaries and government departments such as the Agriculture, Co-operative and Social Development Departments. The approach was largely through individual field officers working on specific projects in housing, agriculture, health, education and social development.

In 1956, a Community Development Officer was appointed in the Social Development Department mainly to encourage the formation of village committees and to help them assume the responsibility of operating community programmes and projects. These committees are designed to be the principal co-ordinating agencies in the villages for all departmental programmes. Forty-four such committees were functioning in 1957. A conference was held in 1957 as part of an intensive leadership programme.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

The incidence of crime declined from 1947 to 1953, rose again significantly between 1952 and 1953, then declined in 1955. Although there was a slight increase in 1956, the total did not return to the level of 1953. The central prison is located in Belize with separate accommodations for males and females. There is provision for the segregation of first offenders in an open prison of the minimum security type. In their spare time, prisoners engage in handicrafts. Proceeds from the sale of the articles produced are either credited to the prisoner for the purchase of items such as cigarettes, placed in a savings account, or remitted to his family. After-care services are in the hands of a committee

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of seven persons appointed by the Governor. The total daily average of inmates was 166.9 in 1954 and 151.6 in 1956.

Crime statistics^{a/}

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Crimes against the person	204	379	473
Crimes against property	694	1,491	1,671
Other offences against the penal code	39	90	17

a/ Crimes reported or known by the police.

Juvenile delinquency

The most prevalent crimes committed by juveniles are those against property, without violence. The Government maintains a boys' training school, the Listowel School; the Salvation Army provides the trained staff and operates the school. Similar to the facilities provided for first offenders, it is a minimum security institution for the training of delinquent boys who have not responded adequately to probation services, which are provided by two officers. Its capacity is not sufficient to meet the need. For example, in 1953, 257 juveniles were charged, as compared with 177 in 1947. There were many recidivists in this group who, but for lack of accommodation, would have been sent to the school. Serious consideration has been given to the construction of new facilities to increase capacity, but the problem of finance at the moment seems insurmountable. However, the establishment of a separate institution for the youngest and oldest age-groups who go to the Listowel School is under consideration. Most of the boys of school age attend regular classes; those over school age take courses such as carpentry, furniture-making and agriculture. After-care is the responsibility of the Social Development Department.

Offences by juvenile delinquents

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Offences against lawful authority	...	...	44
Crimes against the person	11	27	16
Crimes against property	70	146	70
Offences against local statutes	113 ^{a/}	84	18

a/ Other offences.

/...

PUBLIC HEALTH

In 1947, malaria was listed as the principal cause of death. About 1,000 cases were treated in the hospitals, representing 20 per cent of admissions for all causes. By 1949, a mosquito control programme was inaugurated, financed by a grant from the United Nations Children's Fund, under which almost every house in the Territory was to be sprayed twice a year. The effectiveness of this project was proved by the results of a malaria survey which showed an 80 per cent decline in the number of malaria cases from 1949 to 1953. In that year, legislation was enacted calling for compulsory spraying, and by 1957 this project was converted into an eradication campaign. The number of cases in 1957 was 354, slightly more than in 1956, probably as a consequence of a more intensive search.

The Government maintains a large general hospital in Belize to which was added, in 1955, a fifty-seven-bed extension with the help of Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In addition, a small hospital is located in each of the five administrative centres. Fees range from 25 cents to \$3 a day, but people without sufficient means are entitled to free hospitalization. Medical and health services are now reaching the whole of the population; hospitals and sanitation services are functioning in every district headquarters town, and rural dispensaries, nine of them built since 1948, are located at selected positions in order to provide maximum accessibility. It is expected that as more trained nurses (who are in short supply) become available, the number of dispensaries will be increased. A tentative sum of \$200,000 was included in the third development plan, 1955-1960, to cover the cost of building and equipping two new hospitals. Because of the proven value of rural health centres, the plan also included a sum of \$50,800 for the construction of three new ones.

The improvement of the general level of health of the population is also indicated by the steady decline of the crude death rate and the rate of infant mortality. There have, of course, been occasional epidemics, and cases of malnutrition are common among the population. The Government appointed a committee in 1952 to investigate the problem of malnutrition and to consider ways of increasing labour productivity; a subsequent survey of the dietary habits of workers showed that the diet of the average labourer was conspicuously lacking in the protective foods, greens and vegetables.

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Several programmes relating to the control of endemic or epidemic diseases have been successfully carried out during the period. For example, a campaign against hook-worm and other helminthic diseases was pursued. The use of chloromycetin in the treatment of typhoid cases succeeded in reducing the case mortality rate from 23.4 per cent in 1951 to 2.04 per cent in 1952. The number of reported typhoid cases also declined from a rate of 113.9 per 100,000 population in 1953 to 20.8 in 1956.

A country-wide BCG immunization campaign was started in 1953 and at the same time inoculations were given against yellow fever. The former project also included the testing of all children entering and leaving school. During recent years, a tuberculosis laboratory was added to the Belize General Hospital and an extension was made to the tuberculosis hospital providing an additional twenty beds to make a total of fifty-five. The chest clinic in the capital has been reorganized and it is planned to open similar clinics in Stann Creek and Corozal. Public health nurses are carrying out ambulatory and home treatment of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis. The number of reported cases declined from 107 in 1953 to thirty-eight in 1956.

In an attempt to combat malnutrition among children, a feeding scheme was organized by the Medical Department in 1950, with the collaboration of local voluntary effort and the Red Cross Society and a grant from UNICEF. Milk, margarine, cod liver oil capsules and hot lunches are served to selected children. Between 1953 and 1954, it was reported, 4,000 under-nourished school children were receiving these meals and snacks. But in 1956, the number had increased to 9,675.

Other school health services are eye-testing and the prescribing of eyeglasses, those required by needy children being financed from the Official Charities Fund. Dental attention is also given to school children in each district centre. British Red Cross workers helping in these general services have referred over 500 children for detailed medical examination. About 2,800 children benefited from these services in 1956.

Maternal and child health work was further extended in 1956 through the inclusion of some remote communities in the itinerary of the mobile health clinics. In 1955, there were fifty-four such clinics as compared with seventeen in 1954.

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In 1957, a project to construct four dual public health centres, providing facilities for the treatment of general diseases and the practice of dentistry, was in progress, financed by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. A new hospital of twenty-five beds in the township of Corozal, replacing the one destroyed by the hurricane of 1955, was completed and the health centre, with dispensary and out-patient clinics, was under construction in a central location in the town itself. Plans are being prepared for a new mental hospital of about 100 beds.

There is a great need for a modern sewage disposal system in Belize and a committee is presently considering the problem. Belize obtains its water supply from wells in the Pine Ridge and from rainwater collected on roofs. There is no public pressure system. Since development of a sewage disposal system is dependent on the prior establishment of a water supply system, efforts and finances are being devoted to this end. In connexion with the reconstruction of the town of Corozal plans were made to introduce house-to-house water supply and water-borne sewage disposal.

Staff, generally, is in short supply, particularly in the case of trained nurses. The basic training of these and of midwives is given locally but this training is not fully recognized by the General Nursing Council of England and Wales. British Hondurans are admitted to the University College of the West Indies, the regional academic centre for professional training in medicine. The University College hospital provides facilities for the training of a wide variety of auxiliary medical personnel such as laboratory technicians, radiographers, pharmacists, nurses and midwives.

Public health expenditure, \$221,618 in 1947, had increased by a little over 100 per cent by 1956.

Government medical and health staff

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Registered physicians	9	11	13
Licensed physicians	...	...	...
Dentists	5	...	...
Nurses	70	86	81
Midwives	135 ^{a/}	...	...
Sanitary inspectors	11	12	12

a/ 1952.

Institutions

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>Number of beds</u>		
				<u>1947</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
General hospitals	6	6	6	163	244	290
Dispensaries <u>a/</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mobile units	...	...	...	...	...	...
Specialized units:						
Tuberculosis	...	1	...	...	...	55
Venereal diseases	...	1	...	...	...	...
Mental hospital	...	1	...	...	...	100
Leprosarium	...	1	...	...	...	...

a/ There are rural dispensaries run by the Government and by religious missions.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

The implementation of educational policy is entrusted to a Board of Education appointed by the Governor. Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen who reside within their school areas. Schools, primary as well as secondary, are open to all students of whatever race or class. Any primary school with a certificated teacher in charge and a daily attendance of not less than fifteen pupils may apply for government aid if the school is approved by the Board of Education. With the exception of two which are operated by the Government all aided primary schools are run by religious organizations. There are also non-aided denominational private primary schools.

Aided schools are required to accept a number of indigent pupils but may require a nominal charge; in practice, few pupils pay. The curriculum is based on British elementary school practice, and the language of instruction is English. Schools are located throughout the Territory, but the uneven distribution of population requires the operation of many small and uneconomical schools. Language presents a further problem since four main languages are spoken in the Territory (English, Spanish, Maya and Carib).

Apart from the Belize Technical School, all secondary education is managed and financed wholly by religious organizations which conduct five recognized secondary schools. Secondary pupils vary in age from thirteen to eighteen, and the syllabus of instruction is based on that prescribed for the University of Cambridge local examinations. Many students sit, however, for the Cambridge Senior certificate. Fees range from \$65 to \$100 a year.

The Government Teacher Training College, established in 1954, graduated its first class in 1956, fifteen students successfully completing the two-year course. Three others completed a similar course at a privately-run teacher-training college. There were thirty-seven students in teacher training in 1957, and eight teachers had either completed or were completing educational work in the United Kingdom, at the University College of the West Indies or in Puerto Rico under the United States International Cooperation Administration's Caribbean training scheme.

The salary scale for teachers was revised upwards in 1956 by about 15 per cent.

The Government contributes funds to the University College of the West Indies and awards a number of scholarships to the University as well as to other schools of higher education abroad. A number of scholarships are also provided by private enterprise. In 1954, eighteen students were following higher education abroad on scholarships provided by either the local or metropolitan Governments.

Technical education

Courses of a technical nature are conducted at the Belize Technical College which was established in 1952 for day and evening classes. The main courses are metal-work, woodworking, technical drawing and mechanics for boys and, since 1955, cookery and needlework for girls. Evening classes offer courses such as building construction, radio service, machine shop, physics and mathematics. Attendance averaged ninety-two in 1954.

Adult education

The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies maintains a branch and a resident tutor in British Honduras. Classes are conducted in art, languages and commercial subjects. In 1956, the first British Honduran graduate of the University College returned and assumed the post of Acting Extra-Mural Tutor.

The most important development in education during 1956 was a review of the primary school curriculum by an expert from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This review has led to the more practical slant which, of late, is being given to school curricula, with particular emphasis on agricultural education.

A Colonial Development and Welfare grant of some \$107,000 was approved in 1956 for maintaining and improving school buildings and for the encouragement of teacher training and increasing the supply of textbooks. Additional monies were also provided for the extension of teacher training facilities and the Belize Technical College. Educational expenditure in 1956 totalled about \$474,000 as compared with \$388,000 in 1954.

Schools

	<u>1947</u>			<u>1953</u>			<u>1956</u>		
	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Non-aided</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Non-aided</u>	<u>Govt.</u>	<u>Aided</u>	<u>Non-aided</u>
Primary	3	75	33	2	93	27	2	98	32
Secondary	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	9 ^{a/}	-
Technical	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Teacher training	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

a/ Including 5 recognized secondary schools.

Pupils

<u>Schools</u>	<u>1947</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1956</u>	
	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Primary	10,707 ^{a/}		6,959	6,772	8,762	8,500
Secondary	818 ^{a/}		481	483	637	582
Technical	-		46	19	87	31
Teacher training	-		-	-	12	17
Higher education elsewhere	-		-	50		41

a/ Government and aided schools only.

Teachers

<u>Schools</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1956</u>
Primary	304 ^{a/}	355
Secondary	48	80
Technical	7	...
Teacher education	...	...

a/ Excluding probationers and pupil teachers.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

The new Baron Bliss Institute, named after its benefactor, was formally opened in 1954. It is a modern ferro-concrete building with an auditorium, stage and dressing rooms, a lecture room and other facilities. Activities held there have included lectures by visiting and local speakers; concerts and plays, the Annual Festival of Arts, and extra-mural study groups under the auspices of the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies. The Central Library and headquarters of the library service are also housed in the Institute. An officer of the library gained professional qualifications with the British Library Association and was subsequently appointed the first full-time librarian. Apart from the children's library in Belize, there are twelve other library service points in the Territory.

Up to 1956, there were three daily newspapers, two more than in 1947; six permanent cinemas, also an increase of two; and twenty-two film projectors, twelve of which were being employed for educational purposes. A museum was closed during 1956 for lack of funds. The Information and Broadcasting Unit, with a budget of about \$104,000 in 1956, two-thirds of which was provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, operates the broadcasting service and information work. Most of its staff is engaged in the broadcasting service which operates for thirty-five hours per week, partly in Spanish. The high cost of radio receivers in proportion to average incomes limits the number of sets; there were 3,261 in 1956. One of the most important functions of the Information Unit is the operation of a mobile cinema. Many youth clubs are sponsored by various government departments.
