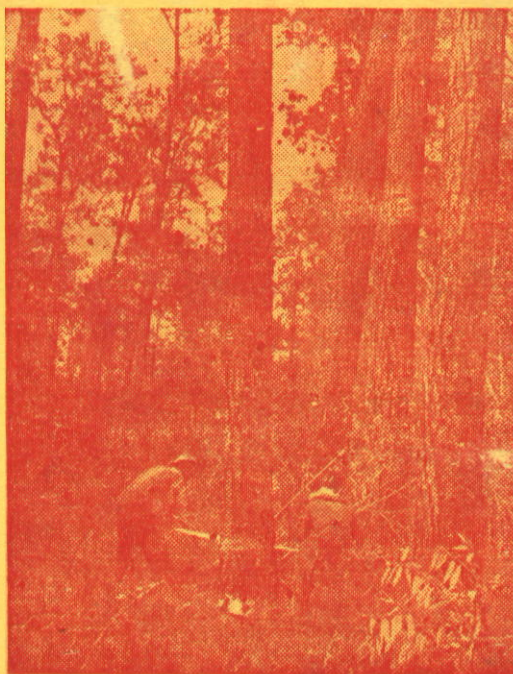


PORTFOLIO of INFORMATION

ON

BRITISH HONDURAS



Felling a Pine Tree in B. H.

*Issued by The Government Information Service,
Belize City, British Honduras, 1961.*

BRITISH HONDURAS

ADMINISTRATION

Constitution

Following a Constitutional Conference in London in February, 1960 British Honduras was granted a new Constitution which introduced the Ministerial System, and places the country nearer to internal self-Government. The new Constitution provides for an enlarged and reconstituted Legislative Assembly made up as follows:

- 2 Ex officio Members (The Chief Secretary, and the Attorney General)
- 18 Elected Members
- 5 Nominated Members.



At the Polls to elect a new Government.

The 18 Elected Members each represent a single member constituency, six of which are for the City of Belize, the Capital, two for the rural areas of the District of Belize, and the remaining ten being divided in lots of two for each of the five other Districts.

The five seats for nominated members are filled by the Governor after consultation with the First Minister in respect of two seats; with the leader of the minority party in respect of one seat; and with the leaders of both the majority and minority parties in respect of the remaining two seats.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is elected by the Assembly from among persons who are not members of the Assembly. The Deputy Speaker may be a member of the House.

Executive Council

The chief instrument of policy is the Executive Council. It comprises the Governor as Chairman without a vote, the two Ex-Officio members of the Assembly, and

six unofficial Members, at least one of whom must be a Nominated Member of the Assembly. These six members are Ministers with Portfolios distributed by the Governor on the advice of the First Minister, who may also hold a portfolio. The leader of the Majority Party in the Legislature is appointed First Minister by the Governor, and the remaining five unofficial Members of Executive Council are elected by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Assembly from amongst their own number.

Franchise

The Franchise is based on universal adult suffrage for all British subjects, subject to residential qualification of one year, and who are not less than 21 years of age.

District Administration

For Administrative purposes, British Honduras is divided into six districts, i.e., Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Toledo, with administrative headquarters situated in the main town of each district and in charge of a District Commissioner (or District Officer in the case of Belize City.)

Local Government

Each of the main towns in the country has a Town Board (or City Council in the case of Belize City) which is entrusted with a number of municipal matters, such as the establishment and maintenance of markets, streets and street lighting, drains, baths and wash-houses.

The City of Belize has a wholly elected City Council of nine members and the District Town Boards comprise four elected members and two ex-officio members—the District Commissioner, Chairman, and the District Medical Officer.

There are plans to make the District Town Board a wholly elected body

The New Government

On March 1st, a General Election was held under the New Constitution and the People's United Party won all 18 elected seats. The leader of the Party, the Hon. George Cadle Price, was appointed First Minister of British Honduras by the Governor.

The Composition of the new Executive Council is as follows:

The Hon. George Price—First Minister and Minister of Finance and Development.

The Hon. Albert Cattouse—Minister of Public Works, Power and Communications.

The Hon. J. W. Macmillan—Minister of Education, Health and Housing

The Hon. A. A. Hunter—Minister of Natural Resources, Commerce and Industry

The Hon.. L. S. Sylvestre—Minister of Local Government, Social Welfare & Cooperatives.

The Hon. C. L. B. Rogers—Minister of Labour.

Under the present Constitution the Chief Secretary, is responsible for External Affairs and Internal Security, Information and the Public Service.

The Attorney General is in charge of all Legal Matters of the Government.

AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH HONDURAS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Administrative Headquarters is in the City of Belize and comes under the Portfolio of the Minister for Natural Resources, Commerce and Industry. The Research Centre is situated at Central Farm, at mile 67 on the Belize-Cayo road, where a research Laboratory is maintained offering limited facilities for soil and leaf analyses. There is also an Agricultural Training centre at Central Farm providing short courses on general agriculture. A cane research station is maintained at San Roman in the Corozal District.

Research into livestock breeding, and pasture is also carried out at the Centre. Services include supply of planting materials and limited stud services for cattle and pigs.

There are district agricultural stations at Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Punta Gorda. Extension Services are maintained in all Districts and Farm Demonstrators, 32 of them at present, are available to give advice on crops, drainage and veterinary treatment of livestock.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON CROPS

Most tropical crops thrive in the territory, depending upon rainfall and soil conditions. Average rainfall varies from 50"—55" in the North, 60"—70" in the centre and 120"—140" in the South of the country. There is considerable variation in soil types, the best land being found in the vicinity of the major rivers. Good land is available, sometimes in pockets, in all districts.

In addition to rainfall and soil requirements, the choice of crops will be influenced by available and potential markets and costs of production. Proven economic crops are oranges, grapefruit, cane, cocoa and coconuts.

Other crops which will grow, in different localities include:— Plantains, bananas, Maize, Rice, various types of Beans, Yams, Cassava, Coco-yams, Sweet Potatoes, Groundnuts (peanuts), Pineapples, Sorghum, Tobacco, Cotton, Oil Palms, Coffee, Breadfruit, Avocado Pear, Cashew, Soursop, Guava, Mango, Limes, Tangerine, Custard Apple, Papaya, Akee, Barbados Cherry, Nutmeg, Pimento, Watermelon and various Spices.

LIVESTOCK

Beef cattle for export to the Caribbean seems a likely venture. There is, at present, only a limited internal market for diary produce. Brahmin blood is a necessity and Brangus, Charbray, Santa Gertrudis and Jamaica sires have given promising results. Excellent results have been obtained by crossing local cows with pedigree Brahmin bulls. Santa Gertrudis and Jamaica Red Poll have also given promising results.

Grass: The most adaptable grass for pastures appears to be Jaragua (*Hyperthymum rufa*); other grasses which show promise in selected areas, are Guinea Grass (*Panicum maximum*), Pangola Grass (*Digitaria decumbens*), and Elephant or Napier Grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*)—the last for fodder.

Pigs: The Berkshire, large Black and Hampshire breeds of pigs have done well under local conditions. The main economic factor is the lack of locally produced protein for feed.

Poultry: Poultry thrive but the local market can be readily flooded. As in the case of pigs, feed can be an expensive item.

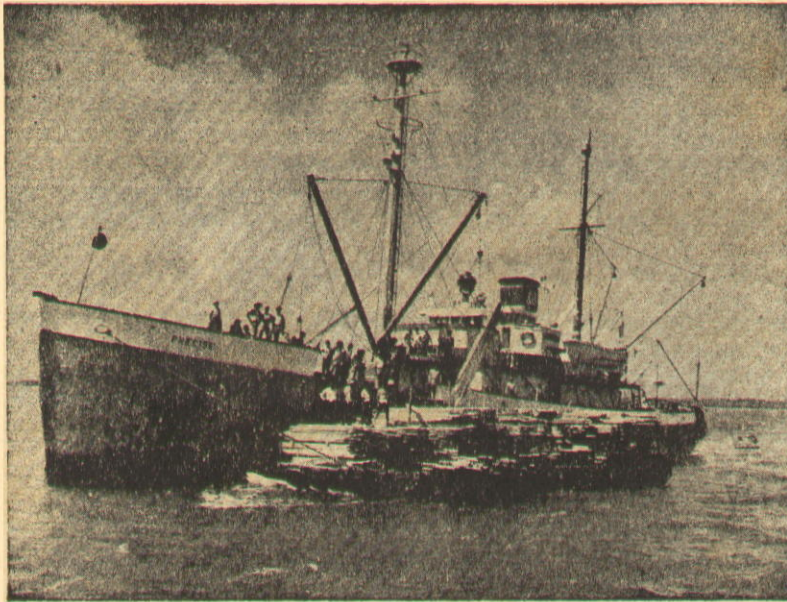
Sheep: The local breed of sheep does well, especially in the drier districts of Orange Walk and Corozal.

EXTERNAL & INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS IN BRITISH HONDURAS

1. SHIPPING

The main port of British Honduras is Belize City which is served by the following shipping lines:—

<i>Line</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Service</i>
United Fruit Company	New Orleans New York	Weekly Monthly	Cargo Cargo
Harrison Line	London Liverpool	Monthly (twice monthly in sugar season)	Cargo Cargo
Royal Netherlands Steam- ship Company	Amsterdam	Monthly	Cargo
Caribbean Line	New York	Fortnightly	Cargo
Buccaneer Line	Florida and Gulf Ports	Monthly	Cargo
Flota Centro-Americana S.A. (2 ships)	Central American Ports, New York & Montreal	Six Weeks	Cargo



Loading Lumber for Export.

Coastal service between towns and villages south of Belize City twice weekly with extension to Puerto Barrjos (Guatemala) once a week by the M. V. "HERON" and "MAYA PRINCE".

FREIGHT RATES ON APPLICATION TO THE COMPANIES CONCERNED.

2. AIR SERVICES

British Honduras has an international airport at Stanley Field which is served by the following air lines:—

<i>Line</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Services</i>
British West Indian Airways	Kingston	Viscount	Weekly	Passenger & freight
TAN Airlines	Miami	C-46	5 times per week	Passenger & freight
TACA International Airlines	New Orleans	DC-4 Viscount	Twice weekly	Passenger & freight
SAHSA	San Pedro Sula & Guatemala City	DC-3 C-46	Twice weekly Weekly	Passenger & freight
ASA	St. Petersburg (Florida)	C-46	Non-scheduled	Freight

AIR FREIGHT RATES ON APPLICATION TO THE AIRLINES CONCERNED

AIR PARCEL POST RATES FROM G. P. O., BELIZE.

There is an internal airline, British Honduras Airways, (owned by British West Indian Airways) which operates single engine, 3-passenger aircraft on flights to the district towns and on charter. At present there are sixteen Government-owned and private air strips throughout the territory suitable for light aircraft. Charter rates are \$50.00 (£12. 10. 0) per hour.

3. ROADS

There are over 400 miles of all-weather roads connecting the main towns (except Punta Gorda, but a road to this town has now been started and should be finished in 1963), with the Capital and 150 miles of secondary roads including forestry roads which are not open to public use but which are used by timber contractors and others. A system of feeder roads is now in use in the sugar growing areas of the north. British Honduras is connected by road with Mexico through the town of Chetumal in Quintana Roo, Yucatan and by road to Melchor de Mencos (formerly Fallabon) in the Guatemalan province of Peten. During the dry season it is possible to proceed from there to Flores, capital of the province.

Passenger buses run several times a week from Belize City north to Orange Walk and Corozal (thence to Chetumal) and west to El Cayo and south-west to Stann Creek. In addition there are trucking services to many points in the hinterland, and the coastal towns daily.

A Bus service in Belize City is to be introduced shortly.

On October 1st, 1961, British Honduras changed over from Left to Right Hand Drive

4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS (External)

British Honduras is connected with Kingston (Jamaica) and Miami by radio-telegraph and telephone. These services are at present operated by the Government but will shortly be handled by an overseas company,

Rates to London and New York are 20 cts. (US) and 23 cts. (US) FULL RATE respectively and 10 cts. (US) and 11½ cts. (US) per word night letter (deferred) rate for a minimum of 22 words respectively.

The radio telephone rates to Kingston (Jamaica) is £1. 10. 0 per 3 minutes call and to Miami US \$9.00 per three minutes call, with proportional increases for other parts of the U. S. A. There is also a service to Honduras and to Guatemala for which the charge is US \$3.00 per 3-minute call. There is also a service to the U.K. and most of Europe, Central and South America. Rates to Europe and South America is \$21.00 for 3 minutes.

5. TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Internal)

Belize City is served by a magneto-ringing manually operated telephones system which is shortly to be replaced by a fully automatic exchange. The Capital is connected with the district towns by a telephone network as well as by a radio telegraph system operated by the Government. There is also a Police wireless telephone network covering most of the inland and coastal stations which can be used as an alternative method of communication with the districts.

The cost of a telegram is 40 cts. regardless of the number of words.

Inland telephone calls are charged at the rate of 40 cts. per 5 minutes period.

6. BROADCASTING

There is a government owned and operated broadcasting station in Belize City which transmits programmes in both English and Spanish for some 70 hours per week. The service is radiated on medium and short-wave and covers most areas of the territory. News bulletins are broadcast 4 times a day in both languages.

COMPANY FORMATION

The Companies Ordinance, Chapter 206, Consolidated Laws 1958 Volume 5 which largely follows the English Companies Act of 1908, provides for the formation, registration and winding up of Companies. For practical purposes Companies may be classified as (a) private or (b) public.

2. A *private company* is one which by its Articles of Association—

(a) limits the number of its members to fifty exclusive of present employees and of past employees who during their employment were and have continued to be members;

(b) restricts the right to transfer its shares;

(c) prohibits any invitation to the public to subscribe for its shares or debentures.

3. All other companies limited by shares are *public companies*.

4. Any seven or more persons (or where the company to be formed is a 'private company', any two or more persons) may, by subscribing their names to a Memorandum of Association and otherwise complying with the requirements for registration, form an incorporated company.

5. The Memorandum of Association is the charter of the company and a stamp duty of \$4.00 is payable on it before it is lodged with the Registrar of Companies. The Memorandum should contain the following:—

(a) The name of the Company, with "Limited" as the last word in its name.

(b) The address in this country at which the registered office of the company is to be situated.

- (c) The objects of the company.
- (d) That the liability of the members is limited.
- (e) The amount of share capital with which the company proposes to be registered and the division thereof into shares of a fixed amount.

6. Articles of Association signed by the subscribers to the memorandum prescribing the internal regulations of the company may be lodged with the Memorandum. These also bear a stamp duty of \$4.00.



Orange Juice Canning Factory, Stann Creek.

7. After the Memorandum and articles (if any) have been certified by the Attorney General as being in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Ordinance a fee of \$25.00 is payable. The following further fees are payable to the Registrar:—

For registration of a company whose nominal share capital does not exceed \$10,000	\$10.00
For registration of a company whose nominal share capital exceeds 10,000 the following fees, regulated according to the amount of nominal share capital:—	
For every \$5,000 of nominal share capital, or part of \$5,000 up to \$25,000	\$5.00
For every \$5,000 of nominal share capital, or part of \$5,000 up to \$500,000	\$1.25
For every \$5,000 of nominal share capital, or part of \$5,000 after the first \$500,000	0.25

Companies established outside British Honduras

8. Foreign companies which establish a place of business here are required, within one month of the establishment of the place of business, to deliver for registration:—

- (a) a certified copy of the charter, statutes or memorandum and articles of the company or other instrument constituting or defining the constitution of the company.

(b) a list of the directors and secretary of the company containing certain particulars.

(c) the names and addresses of some one or more persons resident in British Honduras authorised to accept on behalf of the company service of process and any notices required to be served on the company.

9. Where a foreign company has complied with the above requirements it has the same power to hold lands in this country as if it were a company incorporated here.

10. Foreign companies are required to file every year a statement in the form of a balance sheet similar to the filed by locally incorporated companies.

11. A fee of \$1.25 is payable for the registration of any document required to be filed with the Registrar.

12. The Registrar General, Belize City, is the Registrar of Companies.

COST OF LIVING

1. A Rental Price Index is maintained for the City of Belize. This Index was compiled as a result of a Family Expenditure Survey carried out in 1958 among families whose chief earner was earning under \$200 per month.

2. The base date of the Index is June, 1958. Since then the Index has moved as follows:—

June, 1958	:	100
December, 1958	:	98.4
June, 1959	:	99.7
December, 1959	:	99.8
June, 1960	:	99.6

3. The average retail prices of the principal items of food, fuel, and other items for the month of August, 1960 were as follows:—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Price</i>
Bread	13 ozs.	.15
Flour	lb.	.09
Rice (polished)	lb.	.15
Rolled Oats	14 ozs. pkt	.47
Beef (sirlion)	lb.	.50
Pork (chops)	lb.	.35
Pig Tails (salted)	lb.	.50
Fresh fish (snapper)	lb.	.25
Chicken (dressed)	lb.	.85
Margarine	lb.	.40
Lard (chicharron)	lb.	.30
Coconut Oil	pint	.35
Milk (condensed)	14 ozs. tin	.23
Milk (evaporated)	14½ ozs. tin	.23
Butter	lb	1.00
Cheese	lb.	.80
Eggs (fresh)	dozen	.78
Beans (Red Kidney)	lb.	.23
Irish Potatoes	lb.	.15

<i>Article</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Price</i>
Plantains	dozen	.42
Onions	lb.	.15
Coconut	each	.07
Oranges	dozen	.30
Sugar (white)	lb.	.10
Coffee (nescafe)	2 ozs. tin	.65
Tea	1 oz. pkt.	.12
Cocoa	4 ozs. tin	.33
Beer (cold)	pine	.45
Lemonade (cold)	pint	.10
Electricity	Kwh	.15
Kerosene Oil	qrt.	.09
Soap (Laundry)	9 ozs. bar	.22
Cigarettes (local)	pkt. of 20	.32
Cigarettes (imported)	pkt. of 20	.40

(The B. H. dollar—5 shillings sterling or 70 cents U. S.)

4. Items of clothing, household supplies and hardware are imported mainly through European and American markets and are easily obtainable in the stores.

5. Housing in Belize City is not easily obtainable. However, persons are able to obtain rented accommodation from time to time. Such accommodation varies considerably but it has generally been found that, for single-flat unfurnished accommodation—of the two-bedroomed type with water and toilet facilities, the average rental is in the vicinity of \$40 per month.

6. Medical attention can be obtained at the Belize Hospital and hospitals in the district towns. These hospitals are operated by the Government and there are also two privately run hospitals in Belize City. There are also several private medical and dental practitioners in Belize City.

CURRENCY AND BANKING

CURRENCY

The currency unit of British Honduras is the Dollar. The currency is linked at a fixed rate with Sterling and the official rates of exchange are:—

\$4.00 B.H. = £1 sterling

\$1.43 B.H. = \$1 U.S.A.

2. The currency is stable and is part of the sterling area system. A foreign exchange control is in operation on the same basis as other sterling area countries.

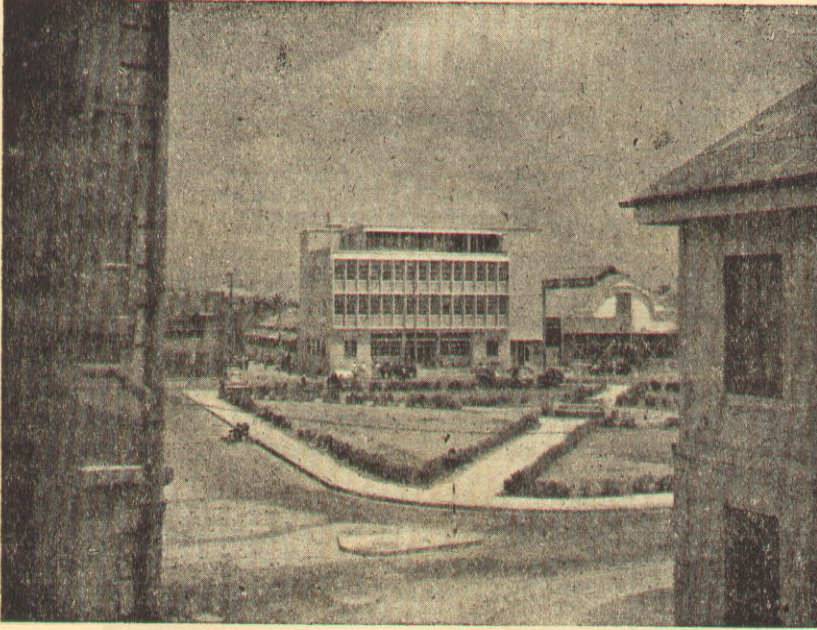
3. New enterprises financed by outside capital may be granted APPROVED STATUS under which convertibility is guaranteed for the following:—

(a) Remittance of profits.

(b) Return of capital investment and any gains thereon.

BANKING

4. Two commercial banks operate in the country: the Royal Bank of Canada which was established in 1912, and Barclays Bank, D. C. O., which was established in 1949. Both have their headquarters in Belize City. Barclays Bank has a branch in Stann Creek and provides certain banking services in Corozal one day a week
5. The Government Savings Bank has its headquarters in the Treasury Department in Belize City and operates branches in the administrative centre of each District.



Barclay's Bank overlooking Central Park in Belize City.

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

Tax concessions are awarded under the authority of the Development Incentives Ordinance 1960, and are available to persons, and companies formed and registered under the Companies Ordinance, for the purpose of conducting a 'development enterprise'.

2. A 'development enterprise' is one which—
 - (a) will be conducted to the benefit of the economy of British Honduras;
 - (b) is either a new enterprise, or the expansion of an existing enterprise; and
 - (c) is in the public interest.
3. The concessions consist of holiday from—
 - (a) Company income tax
 - (b) Income Tax on dividends arising from the enterprise

(c) import taxes on capital goods*

(d) import taxes on approved raw materials for manufacture

*Note Items of a 'revenue' nature required in the day-to-day operation of the enterprise (e.g. fuel and spare parts) are not included in the concession.

4. The concessions run from the date of the award to 10 years after the 'date of production'. The following schedule gives the 'date of production' of various types of development enterprises:—

Development Enterprise	Date of Production
(1) Citrus	5 years from the date of the development order
(2) Cocoa	5 years development order
(3) Coconuts	5 years development order
(4) Cashew nuts	5 years development order
(5) Livestock	5 years development order
(6) Poultry	1 year development order
(7) Sugar	2 years development order
(8) Rice	2 years development order
(9) Beans	2 years development order
(10) Factory of any description	1 year development order
(11) Hotel—	
(i) Having one or more of the following facilities:—	
(a) swimming pool;	
(b) yachting and water sport facilities;	
(c) ample grounds developed for golfing, horseback riding and other outdoor sports	3 years from date of development order
(ii) Having none of the facilities in (i)	1 year development order
(12) Fisheries	2 years development order

Example:

in the case of a coconut enterprise the concessions would run for 15 years.

5. The concessions are awarded by the Executive Council.

Applications for concessions are addressed to the Minister of Finance and should consist of a memorandum describing the enterprise in general terms and containing the following information:—

(a) particulars as to the nature of such enterprise, the locality in which it will be situated, and the contribution which it is expected to make to the economy;

(b) the estimated amount and purpose of the capital to be expended annually thereon during the period of the Development Order;

(c) where applicable, the conditions under which workers will be employed, including provisions for the housing of workers, and the number of workers to be employed;

- (d) the date on or before which—
- (i) work on the enterprise will commence;
 - (ii) (where the enterprise relates to the production of a commodity), the enterprise will produce in marketable quantities the commodity intended to be manufactured, grown or otherwise produced, and
 - (iii) (where the enterprise relates to the provision of residential or recreational facilities for travellers or tourists), such facilities will be available;
- (e) to satisfy the Governor in Council that the enterprise is adequately financed and is provided with effective and competent management;
- (f) such other information as the Minister of Finance may require.

EDUCATION IN BRITISH HONDURAS

A.—General

The Territory's educational policy aims at literacy of the entire population, and the development of secondary, technical and agricultural education and teacher training. The literacy at present is over 90%.

2. Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years. The school year is from June to April, and is divided into three terms with a seven-week holiday from late April to mid-June, one week in August and three weeks in December.

B.—Primary Education

Types:

There are three main types of primary schools:—

- (a) Primary Schools which are aided financially by Government.
- (b) Private Schools, both denominational and independent.
- (c) Preparatory Schools (which are primary classes attached to secondary schools).

There are in all some 180 primary schools of widely varying sizes throughout the country. With very few exceptions, they are all-age schools. The majority are denominational, the direct management being conducted by the church authorities, and the following denominations are represented:—

Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Salvation Army, Church of the Nazarene, Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, and Grace Chapel.

Curriculum

The curriculum of the primary schools is as follows:—

English, Spanish, Arithmetic, Social Studies, Art and Craft; Literature and Music; General Science, Physical Education, History, Geography and Religion.

Fees and Text Books

At the aided primary schools, a small fee of 5 cents (equivalent to 3d.) may be charged for each pupil for each week during the term. Schools will not, however, refuse pupils whose parents are unable to pay the fees. Some stationery and text books are supplied but pupils are required to purchase additional stationery and text books.

Fees at the private schools (which, if suitably qualified, may be placed on a list of Private Schools officially recognised by the Board of Education) are in the region of 25 to 75 cents a week and parents are, expected to provide all text books and stationery.

C.—Secondary Education

Types:—

There are seven secondary schools in Belize City (3 for girls, two for boys and 2 co-educational), two in Stann Creek Town, (one for boys and one for girls), and one each in Orange Walk, Cayo, Corozal and Punta Gorda (all co-educational).

There is also a Technical College in Belize City and one agricultural secondary school (Lynam College) in Stann Creek in which special attention is given to agriculture and its related sciences. Together, these schools cater for approximately 7% of the total primary school population.

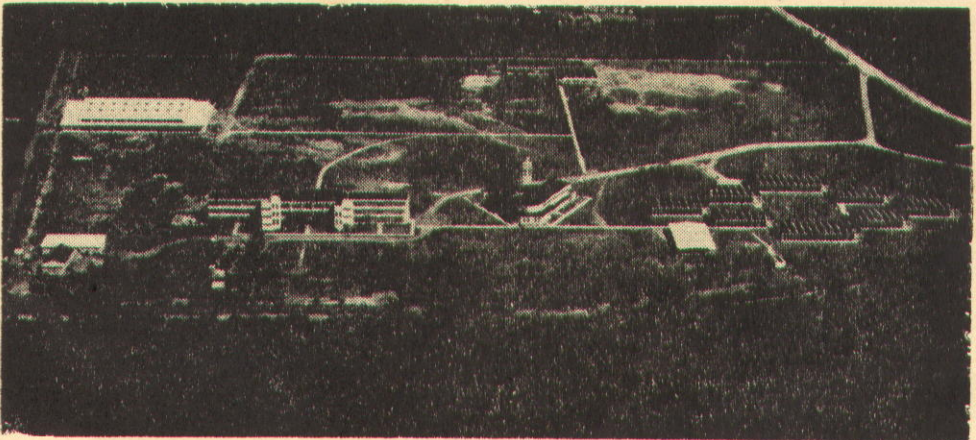
(i) *High Schools (Colleges)*

Secondary academic education is entirely in the hands of the denominations—Roman Catholic, Methodist and Anglican. Assistance is given by Government to a few secondary schools by the payment of salary grants to graduates on the staff, and financial assistance in the form of loans for buildings. Government also provides 100 scholarships for pupils who satisfy regulation conditions from primary schools between the ages of 11 and 14 years. The scholarships are tenable for four to five years. In addition 10 scholarships are provided for successful students at the Cambridge School Certificate examination to read for the Higher School Certificate.

The pupils are prepared in these schools for the Cambridge School Certificate examinations. The basic syllabus is covered in four years.

Science subjects are taught on a central basis at laboratories provided and staffed by Government. The classes are conducted at the Belize Technical College and offer courses in Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Botany, Zoology, and Mathematics. The Belize Technical College also provides courses in Manual Training and Home Economics for pupils from the denominational grammar schools.

Only St. John's College, the Roman Catholic boys secondary school in Belize City, accepts boarders at present. The Alumni Association of S. J. C. also gives annual Scholarships to deserving boys.



St. John's College, Landivar, Belize City.

Fees and Textbooks

At present fees range from \$65.00 per year in the Anglican and Methodists schools to \$100.00 in the Roman Catholic schools. Students are required to purchase their own textbooks.

(ii) *Technical Education (Belize Technical College)*

The Belize Technical College offers a four-year course with free places for approximately 25% of the enrolment and maintenance allowances for some pupils from the districts. The College has facilities for training in wood work, metal work, plumbing, light engineering, electricity, auto-engineering, radio installation, building construction, science and Home Economics. The training is made available through both full time day classes and evening classes.

(iii) *Lynam College (Agriculture)*

Lynam College, which is under the management of the Roman Catholic Mission, is designed as a rural secondary school in which special emphasis is given to agricultural and its related sciences. Students read up to the Cambridge School Certificate.

(iv) *Commercial Courses*

St. Catherine Academy, the girls' Roman Catholic high school in Belize City offers courses in Bookkeeping, Shorthand and Typing leading to the Royal Society of Arts Examinations.

D.—*Adult Education*

Adult education is undertaken by a number of organisations. These include the Extra-Mural Department of the U. C. W. I., an Extension Department of St. John's College, The Belize Technical College, the Social Development and Co-operative Departments, the British Honduras Federation of Women and the Y. W. C. A.

Some of these organisations provide courses leading up to examinations for the General Certificate of Education, the Royal Society of Arts, the City and Guilds of London, and other certificates. Others provide classes of a more general and cultural nature.

E.—*Voluntary Teachers*

Since 1960 the High Schools Faculties have been strengthened by young teachers from Great Britain and the United States. The young Volunteers teach for one year without salary. They are given board and lodge and pocket money.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

It has been agreed in principle that the central feature of economic policy in British Honduras should be planned immigration aimed at the creation, as quickly as financial, sociological and other considerations allow, of an agricultural economy based upon a combination of large scale enterprises and individual small holdings. The arrangements for the implementation of this policy are still under consideration and no organised immigration programme has yet been introduced nor are funds available to finance settlers.

2. Meanwhile British Honduras welcomes immigrants who are in a position to come here and establish themselves without Governmental assistance for any of the following main purposes:—

- (a) agricultural settlement, either on a small holding or plantation basis;
- (b) industrial development;
- (c) sponsored employment by established commercial organisations.

3. The conditions under which immigrations permits are issued to such persons are as follows:—

- (1) that they make an immigration deposit sufficient to cover the cost of their maintenance and return to their country of origin, should this become necessary

for any reason. This deposit would not exceed \$1,200 B.H. (£300), and would be retained by the Immigration Department. It would however, be returned after a period of three years or earlier if the depositor decided to leave British Honduras before the end of that period. As an alternative the deposit of a security in the form of a bond by some third person would in certain circumstances be accepted.

(2) in the case of persons coming here for agricultural settlement or industrial development, that they are in possession of sufficient capital to establish the farm or business and to maintain themselves until their undertaking is properly established;

(3) that they can produce satisfactory evidence of good character.

4. It is normal for persons (other than British subjects) wishing to take up permanent residence in British Honduras to be granted an entry permit for a period of six months in the first instance, after which the immigrant is permitted to remain on a more or less indefinite basis, provided the necessary conditions have been fulfilled.

LABOUR

Part 1—Labour Legislation

The Government of British Honduras follows practices and policies which are embodied in certain International Labour Conventions which have been accepted for application in this territory. The employment of labour and labour relations are governed by the following laws:—

The Labour Ordinance, 1959 which regulates conditions of employment.

The Trade Unions Ordinance, 1941 which governs the formation and conduct of trade unions and employers' Association.

The Wages Council Ordinance, 1958 under which councils representative of management, labour, and the general public can be set up to deal with questions of wages arising between employers and workers in industries where there is no effective machinery for collective bargaining.

The Trades Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, 1939 which provides for the appointment by the Government of Boards of Arbitration when disputes between employers and workers cannot be resolved by negotiation or conciliation. It also provides for the conduct of inquiries into trade disputes.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1959 which prescribes benefits in cases of injury and death arising out of and in the course of employment.

The Factories Ordinance, 1942 which provides for the registration of factories and for the safety of employees.

2. A Department of Labour which comes under the Portfolio of the Minister of Labour is established within the Government with responsibility for the administration of these laws, for the fostering of good labour relations, to receive representation from and to give advice to employers and workers and to advise the Government on labour matters generally.

3. The Labour Ordinance, 1959 regulates conditions of employment. Its main provisions relate to hours of work, overtime and holidays; protection of wages; employment of young persons, women and children; safety, health and housing; contracts of workers; recruiting and similar matters.

4. Under this Ordinance a Labour Advisory Board is established. The Board consists of representatives of workers, employers, and the general public, and its duty is to study and make recommendations to the Ministry of Labour on all matters affecting workers.

5. Hours of work, overtime and public holidays—The following are the standard provisions:—

- (a) A 9—hour day
- (b) A 48—hour week of 6 days
- (c) Overtime at $1\frac{1}{2}$ times ordinary rates of pay for work in excess of the times at (a) and (b)
- (d) Christmas Day, Good Friday and Easter Monday: twice ordinary rates of pay
- (e) Other public holidays: $1\frac{1}{2}$ times ordinary rates of pay

There are 8 of these other public holidays.

6. *Protection of Wages*—Wages must be paid in full in legal tender at minimum stipulated intervals. Deduction from wages are permitted to meet advances; supplies; and provident fund, sickness benefit and trade union contributions but such deductions may not exceed one third of the wages earned during the pay period.

7. The minimum stipulated intervals for payment of wages are:—

- (a) weekly for hourly and daily paid workers;
- (b) fortnightly for piece-workers;
- (c) monthly for salaried workers.

8. Young persons, women and children—There is a general prohibition on the employment of these classes of workers at night. "Night" is defined as follows:—

- (a) For women: Between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- (b) For young persons (14-18) years: Between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

9. Children under 12 years of age may not be employed in any undertaking except for limited purposes and within certain time limits. Children under 14 years of age may not be employed in public or private industrial undertakings or branches thereof.

10. Where a woman, who works in a public or private industrial or commercial undertaking or in any agricultural undertaking, has been in the employment of the same employer for a period of not less than 150 days during the previous twelve months the Ordinance prescribes the following maternity benefits:

- (a) Leave of absence on medical evidence at one-third pay for six weeks before and six weeks after confinement.
- (b) Leave of absence on medical evidence for 30 days without pay following the periods allowed at (a).

11. *Safety, health and housing*—Resident workers must be provided with sufficient and hygienic housing, wholesome water, and adequate sanitary arrangements.

12. *Recruiting*—The recruitment of workers (obtaining the labour of persons who do not spontaneously offer their services at the place of employment) may only be done by licensed persons. Workers recruited at a distance exceeding 10 miles from the place of employment are entitled to the cost of transport from the place of recruitment to take up the employment and return on termination of the employment.

13. *Contracts of Service*—Special provisions govern the period of notice of termination of employment under oral contracts of service for an indefinite time. The period of continuous employment determines the amount of notice to be given as follows:—

Continuous Service	Period of Notice
2 weeks to 6 months	3 days
6 months to 1 year	1 week
1 year to 2 years	2 weeks
over 2 years	4 weeks

14. *The Trade Unions Ordinance, 1941*—The policy of the Government is to encourage and support collective bargaining. This Ordinance protects freedom of association and the right to organise. It regulates the establishment of workers' and employers' organisations which are free to formulate their own constitutions and manage their affairs to attain the objects of the organisation. Negotiations by trade unions are conducted on a voluntary basis.

15. An employers' organisation has recently been formed.

16. Four workers' unions are in existence comprising a membership estimated in mid 1960 at about 11% of the wage-earning population. Two of the unions are representative of specialised groups while the other two comprise workers in general employment. The general state of Labour relations is good.

17. *The Wages Council Ordinance, 1958*—This Ordinance enables the Government to establish wages councils in relation to specified workers when the need arises in cases where there is no adequate machinery for regulating wages. The Government may make orders, on the report of a wages council, fixing wages and holidays for the workers in respect of whom the council is established. No wages councils have so far been appointed (mid 1960).

18. *The Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, 1939*—Under this Ordinance the Government is empowered to appoint Arbitration Tribunals and Boards of Inquiry when disputes between workers and employers or between workers and workers exist or are apprehended.

19. Arbitration Tribunals may be appointed after the normal machinery for conciliation has proved ineffective and the consent of both parties is given. Boards of Inquiry may be appointed at the discretion of the Government to inquire into and report on the causes and circumstances of disputes.

20. *The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1959*—This Ordinance came into force in September 1960 and replaces a previous Ordinance passed in 1942. It provides for the payment of compensation for personal injury and death by accident arising out of and in the course of employment, and for scheduled occupational diseases contracted due to the nature of the employment. The Ordinance also requires compulsory insurance

by employers in certain specified employments to cover this liability. The following rates of compensation are prescribed for injury and death:—

Incapacity	Benefits	Limits
1. Death	42 months pay	(Min.) \$2,750 (Max.) \$5,500
2. Permanent Total ..	54 months pay	(Min.) \$3,650 (Max.) \$7,300
3. Permanent Partial ..	Proportion of Benefit at 2 depending on injury. Varies between 2% and 100%.	Proportion of limits at 2 depending on injury. Varies between 2% and 100%.
4. Temporary	Periodic payment based on wages:— (a) 100% at \$55 a month or less (b) 75% at \$56—\$70 a month (c) 66 2/3% at \$76—\$85 a month (d) 50% at more than \$85 a month	(a) — (b) Min. \$55 (c) Min. \$70 (d) Min. \$80

21. Compensation is payable for scheduled occupational diseases, causing disablement or death, that result from the nature of the employment and are contracted within 24 months of the disablement or death.

22. Thirteen occupational diseases are scheduled. Each disease is related to a particular occupation in the schedule. Rates of compensation set out in the above table apply, the degree of disablement being the subject of a doctor's certificate.

Factories Ordinance, 1942—

23. The responsibility for the administration of this Ordinance is vested in the Chief Factory Inspector, who is normally the Labour Commissioner. He carries out the duty of registering factories and ensuring that the requirements of the Ordinance are met. Certificates of registration are valid for twelve months from the date of issue and are renewable subject to the same conditions.

24. The Ordinance provides for the appointment by the Government of a Factories Appeal Board to hear and determine appeals from the decisions of the Chief Factory Inspector.

Part II—The Labour Force and Wages

25. The population of British Honduras as shown in the provisional census figures (April, 1960) is as follows:—

Males	44,600
Females	45,800
	90,400

It is estimated that there is an annual rate of increase of 3.7%.

26. The population is spread geographically by Districts as follows:—

Corozal	..	..	..	..	9,800
Orange Walk	..	..	..	..	10,350
Cayo	..	..	..	..	11,700
Belize	..	..	..	..	40,200
Stann' Creek	..	..	..	..	10,650
Toledo	..	..	..	..	7,700
					90,400

32,824 live in the City of Belize.

27. Statistics of the effective labour force, the numbers employed, and the nature of their employment are not available. There are considerable fluctuations in the numbers employed because of the seasonal nature of most industries. A recent survey showed that 15% of the labour force was unemployed, with a further 7% under-employed.

28. Wages—There is no legal minimum wage. Rates of wages vary considerably. The Government and a few industrial undertakings pay a basic rate of 36 cts. an hour to male workers. Other employers pay varying rates with a minimum of 25 cts. an hour to males and 17 cts. — 20 cts. an hour to females.

29. In manufacturing the rates vary according to the nature of industry and trade. The following are examples:—

Sugar Industry

Skilled	..	..	..	..	50 cts.—61 cts. per hour
Semi-skilled	..	..	..	..	38 cts.—49 cts. per hour
Unskilled	..	..	..	..	36 cts.

Citrus Industry

Piece work is the general rule. Male skilled workers average 70 cts. an hour and female workers average 17 cts.—22 cts. an hour.

30. The general rates for office workers in industrial and commercial undertakings are:—

Clerk	..	..	..	..	\$14—\$28 per week
Shorthand-typists	..	..	..	..	\$14—\$19 per week
Secretaries	..	..	..	..	\$25—per week, upwards.

31. Holidays—The Labour Ordinance, 1959 prescribes a minimum of six days paid holiday annually for workers in specified industries. No industries have yet (mid 1960) been specified but action is proceeding in this matter.

32. The Government practice is to base paid holidays on the worker's length of service. Holidays vary from 6 days to 14 days a year.

POPULATION

1960 CENSUS

The 1960 census has now produced the following provisional population figures for British Honduras:

DISTRICT	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Corozal	9,791	5,098	4,693
Orange Walk	10,332	5,433	4,899
Stann Creek	10,635	5,144	5,491
Toledo	7,686	3,752	3,934
Cayo	11,689	6,156	5,533
Belize City	32,824	15,159	17,665
Belize Rural and Cayes	7,386	3,844	3,542
	90,343	44,586	45,757

Up to the 30th September 1960, 27,446 persons had registered throughout the country as voters under the new constitution. This figure represents 69.8% of the total number of potential voters which numbers 39,294.

POWER

Electrical power is available at the headquarters of each of the districts of British Honduras, but only in Belize City is a 24-hour service available. The source of power is diesel engine. The table below sets out the position in the towns where customers are supplied with electricity:

Town	Population 1959	Type	Capacity installed k.w.
Belize	32,000	110V/220 60 cycles A.C.	3290
Corozal	2,800	220 D.C.	40
Orange Walk	2,300	120-208 A.C. (60 cycles)	40
El Cayo and Santa Elena	5,000	200/400 A.C.	40
Stann Creek	4,700	220 A.C.	20
Punta Gorda	1,400	110 D.C.	20

BELIZE CITY

Type:

Basic service voltage 110/220 V single phase and 220V three phase at 60 c/s.

Rates:

The rates for the supply of electrical energy are as follows:

DOMESTIC CONSUMERS

(0—250)	Sq. Ft. of floor area	—	15 units at 14 cents/unit
(251—500)	Sq. Ft. of floor area	—	20 units at 14 cents/unit
(501—1000)	Sq. Ft. of floor area	—	25 units at 14 cents/unit
(Over—1000)	Sq. Ft. of floor area	—	30 units at 14 cents/unit
	A Second block of	.. ..	50 units at 10 cents/unit
	A Third block of	.. ..	250 units at 6 cents/unit
	All over	.. ..	at 4 cents/unit

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS

A First block of	30 units at 12 cents/unit	(Kilowatt Hour)
A Second block of	50 units at 10 cents/unit	
A Third block of	250 units at 6 cents/unit	
A Fourth block of	7000 units at 5 cents/unit	
All Over	.. ..	at 4 cents/unit

Minimum Bill for all consumers—\$1.80/Month.

The Electricity Board is authorised under its Ordinance, to give a special rate to any industrial heavy consumer of electricity.

Hydro Electric Power:

A fair potential exist for the development of this form of power, but it would be extremely uneconomical to attempt to utilise this source at present.

Districts of British Honduras:

Outside of Belize City, electric supply is not reliable. There is no standardisation and many citizens have their own private supply. Steps are being taken at the moment to correct this position, and in the near future a Central Authority will be set up as the responsible body for the whole of British Honduras. This will lead to standardisation and a uniformity in the rates for electrical energy.

WATER SUPPLY

Water for domestic and commercial consumption in British Honduras is obtained from private rain water vats, from wells, and in some cases from public reservoirs with rain water catchment.

In Belize City, Corozal and Punta Gorda there is a standpipe supply for citizens. There is not, in general, any house to house supply; but in Belize City the Fort George Hotel, the hospitals, the three bottling works and some schools have a private connection from the general supply which is stored in large iron tanks.

Water is not treated before supply. It is therefore advisable that persons not used to untreated water supply should boil all drinking water.

TAXATION

PRINCIPAL TAXATION IN BRITISH HONDURAS TAXES ON INCOME

1. INCOME TAX is levied on Companies and individuals.
2. COMPANY TAX is set at a fixed rate of 40% of chargeable income.
3. TAX ON INDIVIDUALS is payable on a graduated scale at the following rates:—

<i>Chargeable Income Annual</i>		<i>Rate %</i>
First	\$500	5
Next	\$500	6
"	\$500	8
"	\$500	10
"	\$500	12½
"	\$500	15
"	\$500	17½
"	\$1,000	20
"	\$4,500	25
"	\$10,000	30
"	\$16,000	40
Remainder		45

4. In addition to the above basic rates on individual incomes, surtax at the following rates is payable on all income in excess of \$8,000 a year as follows:—

<i>Excess over \$8,000</i>		<i>Rate %</i>
First	\$2,000	10
Next	\$5,000	15
Next	\$5,000	20
Remainder		25

5. The incidence of personal tax on four categories of taxpayers is set out in the table below:—

<i>Gross Income</i>	TAX PAYABLE			
	<i>Single Person</i>	<i>Married Person</i>	<i>Married Person with one child</i>	<i>Married Person with two children</i>
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
800	6.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
1,200	24.00	9.00	Nil	Nil
1,600	45.40	27.40	17.00	7.00
2,000	71.00	49.00	37.00	25.00
2,400	101.00	75.80	59.80	46.60
2,800	137.00	107.00	88.60	72.60
3,200	180.00	143.00	123.00	103.00
3,600	228.50	187.50	162.50	139.00
4,000	282.50	237.50	207.50	182.50
6,000	670.00	595.00	550.00	510.00
8,000	1,170.00	1,095.00	1,045.00	995.00
12,000	2,600.00	2,465.00	2,375.00	2,285.00
20,000	6,395.00	6,245.00	6,145.00	6,045.00
30,000	13,025.00	12,815.00	12,675.00	12,535.00
40,000	20,025.00	19,815.00	19,675.00	19,535.00

6. *Interest on loans by non residents.* A flat tax at the rate of 25% is payable on interest on loans made from sources abroad for use in enterprises in British Honduras.

7. *Relief from Double Taxation.* The Government has arrangements with the U. K., U. S. A., Canada and many other countries for the relief of double taxation.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES

8. *Import Duties.* There are two tariffs, viz Preferential and General. The Preferential Tariff applies to goods of British Commonwealth origin. The General Tariff applies to all other goods. Duties are largely *ad valorem* and most of these are at the following rates:—

General	27½%
Preferential	15%

On most mining, constructional, and industrial machinery the General rate is 15% and the Preferential rate 10%. On some items, principally vehicles and rubber products, the general rate is 30% and the preferential rate is 15%.

Specific duties are limited on most items of food, drink and tobacco, on petroleum products and on many items of clothing. Duty on fuel is:—

	General c. per gal.	Preferential c. per gal.
Motor Spirits	22	17
Kerosene: lamp oil 150°	4	3
Kerosene: vapourising oil 110°	6	3
Diesel Oil	14	11
Fuel Oil	14	11

10. *Entry Tax.* A general entry tax is payable at the rate of 3% *ad valorem* on all imports except food for human consumption on most of which 1% is paid. Rice, lard, milk, butter, and beans are exempt from tax.

11. *Export Duties* are levied on chicle, coconuts, mahogany, cedar, pine, logwood and fish.

12. *Excise Duties* are levied on rum, tobacco and methylated and denatured alcohol. The excise duty on rum for local consumption is \$6.00 per proof gallon.

TAX ON LAND

13. *Land Tax* is payable to the central government on all land outside town limits. The tax is graduated according to type of land and proximity to motorable public roads. The classification of land rates of tax are set out in the table below:—

Classification	Rate per acre c.
Savannah: wet dray and scrub and swamp	3
Savannah: pasture land subject to inundation	4
Pine Ridge 1st Class	6
2nd Class	5
3rd Class	3
Low Forest	4
Medium Forest	6
High Forest	9

In addition to the above rates, a tax of 5c. an acre is payable on land lying within one mile of a road maintained from public funds and suitable for wheeled traffic.

ESTATE AND STAMP DUTIES

14. *Estate Duties* are chargeable on estates over \$100 on a scale starting at \$1 per cent on estates up to \$500 rising to \$25 per cent on estates over \$50,000.

15. *Stamp Duties* are payable as follows:—

(a) Receipt for \$10 or over	3c. per receipt
(b) Cheques and Bills of Exchange	3c. each
(c) Import entries	3c. each
(d) Promissory notes	10c. per \$100
(e) Transfers of property	25c. per \$50
(f) Mortgages	10c. per \$50

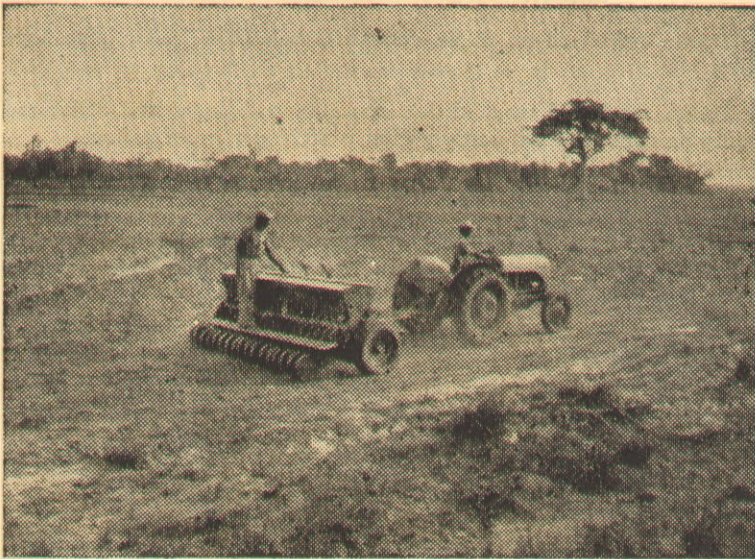
GENERAL

16. The above paragraphs set out the principal taxes in British Honduras. It is not exhaustive, there being other levies (various licences, local authority rates, etc.) that are also payable.

17. *Tax Concessions* in respect of company income tax, dividends tax, import duties and entry tax are made to approved enterprises. The concessions are authorised by the Development Incentives Ordinance, 1960 and are described separately.

LAND

British Honduras is situated on the mainland of Central America. It is bounded on the East by the Caribbean Sea, on the North by the Republic of Mexico, and on the West and South by the Republic of Guatemala.



Harrowing in a B. H. Rice Field.

The coastal waters are sheltered by a line of reefs extending almost the entire length of the territory. The reefs are dotted with numerous large and small sandy islets, known locally as cayes.

3. The Northern half of the country is relatively flat and comparatively dry, the rainfall varying from 50 to 75 inches a year. The greater part of this area is in private ownership. The Southern half is mainly rugged and heavily forested, parts of it exceeding a height of 3,000 feet above sea level. The rainfall in this area varies from 75 inches in the north to 175 inches in the south. The rainy season extends from June to January, the dry season from February to May.

4. The climate and vegetation are sub-tropical. The average temperatures vary from 50 degrees to 95 degrees, the overall average being about 75 degrees. The heat is often tempered by the trade winds from the south-east.

5. The population is approximately 90,000 of whom some 35,000 live in or near Belize City, the capital. The other principal towns are Corozal, Orange Walk and Cayo in the north, and Stann Creek and Punta Gorda in the south.

6. A good map will be found of much greater value than any verbal description in indicating the principal natural features and communications of the country. A map of the country in three sheets, on a scale of 1:250,000 (4 miles to the inch) may be purchased from the Director of Surveys, Belize City, for \$1.50 B.H. More details maps, on a scale of 1:50,000, are also available.

7. The ownership, use and transfer of land in British Honduras are governed by the following laws:—

The Law of Property Ordinance, Chapter 193 Consolidated Laws 1958 Vol. IV

The General Registry Ordinance, Chapter 218 Consolidated Laws 1958 Vol. V

The Crown Lands Ordinance, Chapter 110 Consolidated Laws 1958 Vol. III

The Land Tax Ordinance, Chapter 44 Consolidated Laws 1958 Vol. II

The Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, Chapter 201 Consolidated Laws 1958 Vol. IV

and the Regulations made thereunder.

8. The devolution of interests in land on the death of the holder is governed by the provisions of the following laws:—

The Wills Ordinance, Chapter 195 Consolidated Laws 1958 Vol. IV

The Administration of Estates Ordinance, Chapter 196 Consolidated Laws 1958 Vol. IV

and the Regulations thereunder.

9. In non-technical terms, the Law of Property Ordinance provides that—

(1) the only estates in land which are capable of subsisting or of being created or transferred at law are

- (a) a freehold title;
- (b) a lease for a fixed period.

(2) the only interests in land which are capable of subsisting or of being created or transferred at law are

- (a) an easement, right or privilege over land, either in perpetuity or for a fixed period;
- (b) rights of entry in or over land, either in perpetuity or for a fixed period.

(3) the only charges on land which are capable of subsisting or of being created or transferred at law are—

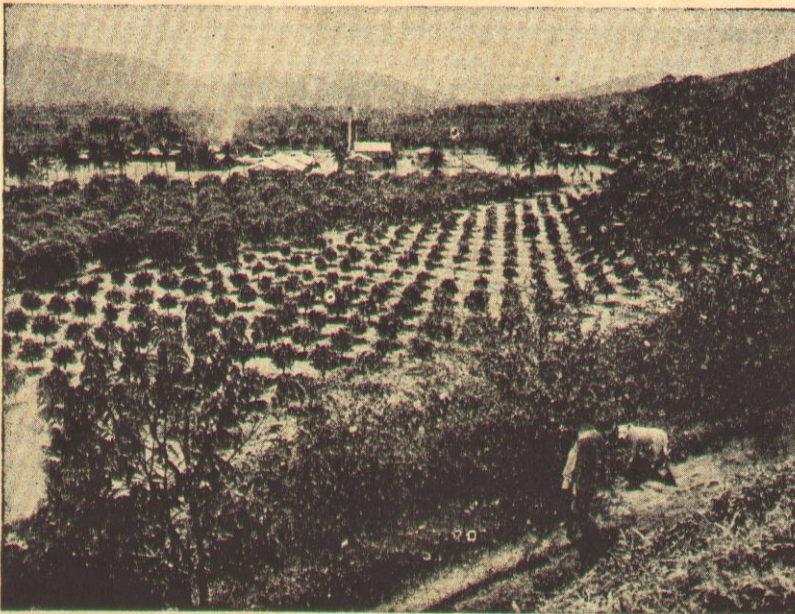
- (a) a legal mortgage;
- (b) a rent charge, either in perpetuity or for a fixed period;
- (c) a charge on crops;
- (d) land tax and any other similar charge on land created by law.

(4) all other estates, charges and interests on land take effect as equitable interests.

All rights and interests in land may be disposed of subject, where appropriate, to the consent of the Crown.

10. Certain limited rights and interests in land may be created by oral contract, but, in general, rights and interests in land may be created only by instrument in writing.

11. The General Registry Ordinance provides that a legal title to, or interest in, land may be created only by a common law conveyance or deed recorded under the Ordinance, or by a Certificate of Title registered under the Ordinance.



An aerial view of a citrus grove in the Stann Creek Valley where the land is very fertile.

12. A First Certificate of Title may be obtained by

(a) any person in whose favour the Court may make a declaration of title to land based on long possession;

(b) any person entitled to a mahogany or logwood work, whether by location or purchase, who by himself or by his predecessors in title, has been in undisturbed possession thereof for thirty years, and the title or transfer thereof remained unrecorded;

(c) any person who makes out by deed and other documents a good title to the land at common law for thirty years;

(d) any grantee from the Crown of freehold land equivalent to a fee simple absolute in possession.

13. A legal title to any land held under a Certificate of Title can only be transferred or assigned by way of a Transfer Certificate. A Certificate of Title registered under the Ordinance creates an absolute and indefeasible title, which cannot be challenged by any other person except on the grounds of fraud or long possession.

14. The Crown Lands Ordinance provides for the administration of all land vested in the Crown. Grants by the Crown may take the following forms:—

- (1) A freehold equivalent to a fee simple absolute in possession;
- (2) A conditional freehold, subject to certain statutory conditions;
- (3) A Location Ticket, which is a form of hire purchase, providing for payment of the purchase price over a period of five years, subject to certain conditions of development, and the grant of a freehold thereafter;
- (4) A leasehold for a term of years absolute, with or without an option to purchase subject to development;
- (5) An annual permit to farm;
- (6) A licence to take sand or other building materials.

15. The Government is not willing to sell Crown land outright, save in very exceptional circumstances. In general, every Crown grant contains conditions for development, and provides for its cancellation or termination if such developments are not carried out or not maintained.

16. Subject to statute law, there are no restrictions on the sale or lease of private land. No Crown grant, however, except an absolute freehold, may be sold, leased or assigned except with the consent of the Government.

17. The Land Tax Ordinance provides for the payment of an annual tax on all rural land. The tax at present is low, and varies from 3 cents to 9 cents per acre, according to the quality of the land, with an additional 5 cents per acre for all land within one mile of a public road. At present, Crown leaseholds are not liable to land tax. Urban land is subject to a property tax, which is levied by the Town Board concerned.

18. British Honduras contains approximately 8,870 square miles of land, including the cayes. Of this area, some 3,630 square miles have been disposed of in the past, and are now privately owned, and some 5,240 square miles are Government (Crown) land.

19. The Crown land is at present subdivided as follows:—

	Square Miles
Forest Reserves	1,976
Agricultural Reserves	576
Long-term Leases	83
Location Tickets	112
Short-term Leases	41
Uncommitted	2,450
	<hr/>
	5,240
	<hr/>

20. A considerable proportion of the uncommitted Crown land is inaccessible by road. But there are 2 million acres of agricultural lands yet undeveloped, half of which are Crown lands. Small parcels of rural Crown land can at present be taken on Location Ticket at from \$3.50 to \$15.00 B.H. per acre, or leased at from 30 cents to \$1.00 per acre, according to the quality and situation of the land, under the provisions of the Crown Lands Ordinance. Applications for larger parcels, exceeding 100 acres, are given special consideration.

21. Rights in minerals, precious stones and metals, petroleum and ancient relics are, with certain exceptions, reserved to the Government. Rights in timber on Crown land are, in general, reserved to the Government, but a Crown grantee can, if he wishes, obtain a timber licence from the Forestry Department.

22. There are no restrictions on the purchase of privately owned land, and it is believed that a number of land-owners are willing to sell land at reasonable prices. There are several professional real estate agents established in Belize City, and considerable areas of private land are on offer by them. Their names can be supplied to interested persons.

23. The Government welcomes the introduction of foreign capital, and is prepared in certain circumstances, to grant concessions in income tax and customs duties to persons who contribute towards the agricultural or other development of the country. The Government does not look kindly on land speculation, that is, the purchase of land for re-sale at a profit later, without contributing anything towards its development. It would not object, however, to the purchase of land for subdivision and re-sale, provided that such subdivision would lead to the use and development of the land.

24. Rural land in this country varies very much in its suitability for agriculture. There are considerable areas of broken, hilly country, and of swamp savannah, subject to permanent or seasonal flooding. There are, however, also large areas of good land, capable of producing good pasture, bananas, cocoa, citrus, coconuts, sugar cane, pineapples, yams, maize, rice, beans, vegetables and other tropical and semi-tropical food crops. Improved methods of agriculture, however, are still in their infancy, and much has still to be learned about maintaining and improving soil fertility under tropical conditions.

25. Prospective purchasers of land in British Honduras are strongly advised to visit the country and see conditions for themselves, since it is impossible in the space of a short article to give an accurate and detailed description of the country and its opportunities.

26. Between 1952 and 1954, a Land Use Survey Team made an exhaustive inquiry into the land of British Honduras. Its report, published under the title "Land in British Honduras", with accompanying maps, may be purchased from the Government Printer, Belize, for \$11.00 B.H.