

At the same time, the new director of Operations, Lt.-Gen. Sir Geoffrey Bourne, was making himself acquainted with the people of Malaya and their occupations. General Bourne heard how a New Village was supplying Kuala Lumpur with vegetables and orchids.

At Jalan Kebun near Klang, Gen. Bourne was impressed by a pineapple plantation, and later he saw some timber felling on the edge of the jungle.

Hurrying on by armoured car and launch, Gen. Bourne made a quick tour of Selangor's granary at Tanjong Karang with the District Officer. Here he saw the last of the harvest coming into the co-operative rice mill, and then went out into the field to watch mechanical ploughing. And, of course, a rubber estate was an essential part of the new Director of Operations' first tour.

Finally, a look at Malaya's only coal mine at Batu Arang. The tour gave the General a quick impression of the country and its people - and gave the people a look at the man who is now directing the fighting side of the Emergency.

BOOKS FOR BRAINS: At the University of Malaya where nearly 1,000 students from all over the country are studying, a new library was one of the first priorities in the University's expansion programme. In this million-dollar modern building, 230 students can work at a time. Fully air-conditioned, the library with its pale green walls and blue-tiled floor, provides the right atmosphere for study and thought. There are 135,000 volumes in the main library, and students have direct access to the shelves. The 80,000 volumes of the Chinese library have all been acquired recently. There are 3 collections of commentaries on the classics and more than 100 volumes of manuscripts.

An important feature of the University library is the microfilm equipment. The microfilm unit is equipped with cameras that reproduce rare books and other records needed in research. Once the book or record has been reduced to a single roll of film, it's an easy matter for a student to read it at one of the four microfilm readers. Microcards - used in place of several thousands of volumes not stocked in book form - are kept separately in catalogue cabinets.

With the latest equipment, a well-stocked library, and the right conditions for study, these Malayan students have every opportunity of becoming Malaya's teachers and leaders.

WEALTH FROM THE SWAMPS: Desolate as they may often look, the mangrove swamps of Malaya are among the richest of the country's forests. Their produce of firewood, poles and charcoal earns many thousands of dollars every year. Here in the Matang district of Perak concessions for felling are distributed to contractors, mostly Chinese. Under the watchful scrutiny of forest officers they cut the timber as it becomes ready, and transport it by a variety of systems to the kilns. A careful rotation is worked out by the Forest Department so that the mangrove forests renew themselves, and keep the 418 kilns in the area regularly supplied with timber. The logs are carried by sampan to the kilns, along specially dug canals. Here the logs are first stripped of their bark which is sold to tanners for dyeing, or to fishermen for preserving their nets. And then the stripped logs are carried into the kiln and stacked around its walls. The entrance is sealed, a fire lit, and the logs are left for a month to be turned by smoke and heat into charcoal. By tongkang it is carried to Penang and to Singapore