



Java Contract In Rubber Plantation In Sintang At The End Of The 19th Century

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to find out the Javanese Rubber Plantation Contracts in Sintang at the end of the 19th century. Analytical descriptive research with historical methods, stages of data collection through direct observation, interviews and documents. Conducting data analysis through source criticism, data interpretation, and writing in historical studies. The results showed that Sintang has a soil structure and a supportive climate for rubber trees, so it is very strategic to become a quality rubber production area. At the end of the 19th century, the Dutch government strengthened culturstelsel politics in Sintang. Rubber seeds imported from Java are ready to be planted. The workforce comes from the natives and also comes from Java. Local rulers and traders played a role in the plantation system, while the Dutch government had the right to regulate rubber prices. Workers from Java are identified by the local people as contract Javanese. Javanese life Contracts in Sintang were borne by the Dutch company and government.

Keywords: Contract Java, Rubber Plantation, Sintang

1. INTRODUCTION

The exploitation of fertile lands in the archipelago was part of the Dutch colonial effort to seek profit in the agricultural and plantation economic sectors. Especially during the Cultivation System by the Dutch colonial era, which focused on agricultural and plantation commodities that were sold and needed by the Western world. The Cultivation System was implemented from 1830 and ended in 1870. The system required indigenous farmers to give up part of their land and labor for the benefit of growing commercial crops

1121

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(M. Arif Rohman n Bambang Purwanto, 1998). One of the most popular crops in the world market at that time was rubber.

The need for natural rubber and synthetic rubber continues to increase in line with the increasing standard of human life. The need for synthetic rubber is relatively easier to meet because the source of raw materials is relatively available even though the price is expensive, but natural rubber is used as industrial raw material but is produced as a plantation commodity (E. Jaya P. U, et all, 2020). The company's need for natural rubber positions this plant as important for the sustainability of fulfilling human life.

The need for rubber raw materials is needed by the world so that in almost several parts of the nations in Southeast Asia contribute to planting rubber trees, one of which is in Sabah, Malaysia. Hevea Brasiliensis sap was planted around 1882 which was obtained from the Singapore Botanical Garden which was delivered to Sabah (J. Noin, 2011). This shows that the sap plant is very promising and suitable for the development of the plantation economic sector in Southeast Asia.

Currently, the development of the agricultural sector in Indonesia is still strategic, especially the plantation sector as a commodity other than oil and natural gas which has good potential and prospects in the world market. Rubber is one of the main commodities in the plantation sector in Indonesia, especially natural rubber (Happy Dewi Purnomowati, et all, 2015).

The development of the pattern of rubber plantations from time to time has undergone several changes. Considering the condition and behavior of the plantation that adapts to the nature in which the plantation is opened. The rubber plant comes from Brazil, South America. Rubber tree height reaches 30 meters, can grow well in the lowlands up to 1000 meters above sea level. Rubber trees are cultivated for their sap, after they are 7 years old. Rubber cultivation in Indonesia in the form of plantations began in the 1890s in Bogor. Initially, through plant cultivation experiments in the Bogor Botanical Gardens carried out by an institution or agency, that is *AlgemeenLandbouwSyndikaa* (I. L. H, 2014).

Along with the development of world demand for natural rubber, especially after the effect of the "boom" of natural rubber prices after World War II. Before the entry of rubber plantations on a large scale, people were familiar with these plants. Even the farmers get seeds or seeds of rubber plants from the pilgrims who stop in Malaysia or Singapore. In addition, Chinese traders (Malaysia and Singapore) who buy rubber production from the people also often bring rubber seeds for planting (R. I. Ikin Sadikin, 2006).





At the end of the 19th century, rubber plantations became a priority, especially in tropical climates. Indonesia has areas suitable for rubber plantations, such as Sumatra and Kalimantan. There are still many rubber farmers who convert their land into rubber plantations in a cheap way. This community rubber has developed in such a way that its production can exceed the production of large plantation rubber. The development of this smallholder rubber plantation began between 1904-1910 (D. S. Haryadi, 2021). Areas outside Java that stand out as exporters of rubber raw materials that managed to increase their export volume rapidly to a peak in 1940 are East Sumatra, Jambi, Palembang, South East Kalimantan and West Kalimantan.

The development of rubber plantations cannot be separated from the principles of colonialism and capitalism. The control of land rights and the policies that are built have an impact on the maximum benefit for the rulers. The role of the Dutch colonial government was very dominant to regulate the pattern of land clearing to determine the type of rubber plants (seeds) to be planted.

Fulfillment of labor is still imported from outside the region such as workers from Java. The recruitment process is certainly different, unlike the forced cultivation system that occurred in Deli Serdang, East Sumatra in 1884. Similar to the opening of a rubber plantation in Sintang, many workers were brought in from Java.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sintang's geographical location is very strategic, it contains fertile soil with various kinds of forest products and the contents of the earth are rich in mining materials. The social and economic conditions of the community are still simple so that this situation provides an opportunity for outsiders to take the wealth of the equatorial earth (E. J. P. Utama, 2015).

In rubber planting, spacing and density have an effect on productivity. Rubber trees that are ready to be tapped (toreh), will be scheduled for production by farmers according to the adequacy of the age and diameter of the rubber tree. The tool for cutting is also determined by the government because the rubber tapping process will affect the quantity of sap water (E. Jaya P. U, et all, 2020).

Rubber is the second largest export crop community after copra. This is indicated by a number of ondernemings working on rubber seen along the Kapuas River, Meliau, Sanggau, Melawi, upstream Sintang (A. Rahmayani, et all, 2014). The need for rubber raw materials is needed by the world so that almost in several parts of the nations in Southeast Asia





contribute to planting rubber trees, one of which is in Sabah, Malaysia. The sap of *Hevea Brasiliensis* was planted around 1882 which was obtained from the Singapore Botanical Garden which was delivered to Sabah (J. Noin, 2011).

The development of the export value of rubber plants is increasing, so that the Dayak and Malay people who initially concentrated on food crops for their daily needs, then began to switch to plants that were selling well in the market, namely cultivating rubber plants. West Kalimantan has its own portrait in the history of trade in export crops (E. Jaya P. U, et al, 2020).

Sintang's export commodities are red gum, nyatuk sap, Sarawak gum, soft gum, the market prices of which are f.250, f.150, f.90, f.62.50 per pikul (H. Sjamsuddin, 2013). Low quality latex is purchased at a price of f.35 per pikul. However, there was a decline in prices due to the quality of the sap mixed with various materials, which had nothing to do with the sap, such as red soil, red wood absorbent and others (J. J. K. Enthoven, 2013).

The community in Nanga Jetak still holds norms and customs. Customs are normative habits and are maintained by the community, so even though customs do not continue to be repeated, at certain times it will continue to repeat itself and must be implemented, if it is not implemented then the community will react (H. Hadikusuma, 2003).

The rubber company in Nanga Jetak, which was managed by a Dutch East Indies businessman, was located between the Melawi River and the Jetak River. The rubber factory is made in such a way as to adjust the rubber distribution line. The rubber factory in Nanga Jetak consists of 4 main buildings. The rubber collection building located on the bank of the river consists of several large tanks (reservoirs). The building for drying the sap is located in the middle, between the collecting building and the packing building. The last buildings are houses that are used as offices or administrative rooms. In the surrounding area, there are small buildings for employee houses and a large elongated building which is the residence of contracted Javanese workers (E. Jaya P. U, et al, 2020).

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is a historical research method. Writing history by using methods, procedures or techniques in accordance with the principles and rules of the historical method which includes heuristics, verification, interpretation and historiography. Source criticism (verification), both primary and secondary written sources were obtained through





literature studies and interviews. The search for oral sources interviewed historical actors and people who witnessed the events (S. Priyadi ,2012). In addition, this research collects data in the form of photos, maps or sketches. Search data in the Regional Library in Sintang, West Kalimantan Provincial Library and Pontianak BPNB Library. From the data identification process, the interpretation of facts through various sources in the form of archives, books, reports and oral sources. Then the next step is to write a history or historiography, which is the final step of a research report.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Geographical, Social in the 19th Century in Sintang

During the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century the territory of Borneo was divided into two parts according to Dutch and British colonialism. The Dutch colony was divided into "Westerafdeling van Borneo" or the western part of Kalimantan and "ZuiderenOosterafdeling van Borneo" or the southern and eastern parts of Kalimantan. Part of West Kalimantan is an independent area from other parts of Kalimantan, both in terms of geography, economy and history (H. Sjamsuddin, 2013).

West Kalimantan is divided into four afdeling, namely Singkawang, Pontianak, Ketapang and Sintang. Of the four parts of the area, Sintang has the largest area. Sintang belongs to the tropics, which has many large and small rivers flowing. The Kapuas and Melawi rivers flow and the confluence of the two rivers in the middle of Sintang city. Each of the other rivers that are connected to the Kapuas River such as the Ketungau River, Sepauk River, and Temunak River (a river other than functioning as a place for bathing and for daily living needs. Besides that, the river is also a silk route for people to enter remote areas and on the contrary.

In West Borneo the main river is the Kapuas river, while to the north there is the Sambas river and to the south there is the Pawan river and the Simpang river. All rivers have great potential for land and forests. West Borneo is almost entirely covered with dense forests so that it affects the cold air temperature at night. The forests are divided by rivers and lakes while the marshy deltas for hundreds of miles are overgrown with various kinds of aquatic plants. In addition, this dense forest is enlivened with animals which then attracts many people to get it (E. Jaya P. U, et al, 2020).

Sintang is surrounded by rivers, plains and mountains. The mountainous area borders the Sarawak region, namely the Kalingkang Mountains and the Schwaner





Mountains. The Keminting Mountains are one of the sources of water that flows on the right branch of the Kapuas River which then enters the Melawi River. Then the Muller Mountains are also the main springs that form the Kapuas River, Mahakam River and Barito River areas (H. Sjamsuddin, 2013).

Fertile land, dense forests and cool air because the Sintang area has a tropical climate, which is located on a plain surrounded by rivers, mountains and hills. When the dry season arrives, the land on the riverbanks is planted with corn and vegetables.

The Kapuas River and the Melawi River are the most important regional flows. The river is wide so that the ships and activities of the Sintang people's life are all sourced and carried out in the river. The confluence of the Kapuas River and the Melawi River forms an exact estuary in the capital city of Sintang, with a river mouth width of more than 1,000 m so that large ships can pass (H. Sjamsuddin, 2013).

Sintang location is very strategic geographically, with fertile soil content. Various forest products and the contents of the earth are rich in mining materials. This geographical situation makes Sintang the most strategic and ideal area for agricultural and plantation land.

The majority of the Sintang people come from the Dayak, Malay, Dagang tribes (Banjar nomads, Bugis, Malays outside Sintang), Eastern Foreigners (Chinese, Arabic) and European (Dutch). Politically the existence of the Malays and a number of sub-ethnic Dayaks were directly under the royal government. The immigrant community, known as Anak Dagang, are migrants who settle temporarily for trading and some are married to the Sintang people. The Chinese who live in Sintang come from China Keh, Ho-Kian and Hok-Lo, they are led by a Kapitan and outside the city or on the outskirts of Sintang led by a *Lauthai* (village head).

At the beginning of the 19th century Sintang consisted of 86 villages, consisting of 75 Dayak villages and 10 Malay villages. The data is based on the census by Gronovius in 1832. Following are the population of Sintang at that time, the Dayak population group was 49,666, Malay was 23,000 and Chinese was 900, bringing a total of 73,566 people (A. F. N. Sagita, 2005). According to Gronovius, there are unrecorded data and it is estimated that the population of Sintang at that time was around 120,000 people. The number of Dutch people is not much, about 45 people and of them are dominated by men.

The Sintang community has cultural diversity. The original inhabitants of Sintang Regency are Dayak and Malay. The symbolization that is present in West Kalimantan for the





Dayak and Malay ethnic groups tends to refer to the religion they follow, not to genealogy. The Malay community is a Muslim population and lives along the river. Along the river is still overgrown with forest forest and is the main source of income, especially from forest products and river products (E. Jaya P. U, et al, 2020).

Malay and Dayak settlements are located in urban areas and on the outskirts of the Kapuas and Melawi rivers, even in the interior. The Dutch live in the southern part of the Kapuas River, opposite the Chinese village (A. F. N. Sagita, 2005). The life of the Dayaks in Sintang is closely related to the Malays. Many Dayaks have embraced Islam and later became Malay, so the naming of their ethnic identity is based on the landschap of their ethnographic origin from the de facto inhabited area. For example, the Dayak ethnicity who inhabits the waters along the Ketungau River, then they are known as the Ketungau Dayak ethnicity.

The division of tribes is no longer a priority for the indigenous people of Sintang, but naming based on where the group lives. The daily life of the Dayak people is highly structured. From morning to evening, all tasks have been divided based on the type of work. The men who stay at home make weapons and woven baskets, while the women work on weaving and pounding rice (A. F. N. Sagita, 2005). Other activities are carried out together, such as farming and gardening, the task is for the men to find game in the forest and rivers to take home.

The Malays dominated in royal politics. The residence of the Malays is in the urban area of Sintang. The layout of the built city is seen from the shape of the house made of belian wood (iron) framework, high roof and the building is erected about 2.4 meters from the ground. The location and rareness of houses are close to each other in the Malay village complex. Other jobs that became the profession of the Malays were almost the same as those of the Dayaks, namely farming and gardening, except for those who worked as employees in the kingdom or became employees of the Dutch government.

The Chinese from OnderafdeelingSintang live across the Kapuas River and the Melawi River, and are scattered in several urban and interior areas. They control the trade, in the form of forest products, cloth, grocery items and other necessities of life. The Chinese district head from one afdeeling is called "Kapitan" who lives in Sintang, while the village head is called "Lauthai". The Chinese in Sintang are big traders who buy forest products from the interior.

4.2. Gardens and Labor





West Kalimantan is one of the producers of copra and rubber in the early 20th century which makes these commodities as plants that sell well in the international market. High rubber prices have an impact on increasing the clearing of rubber plantations, both managed by the community and the government. The better yields of rubber plantations have led to the enthusiasm of rulers, entrepreneurs and capital owners to invest in rubber plantations. As a result of the increasing demand for plantation products as mentioned above, people are excited to carry out a large-scale inventory of the plantation sector.

Almost all areas of the Sambas, Mempawah, Landak, Tayan, Simpang, Matan kingdoms are filled with extensive gardens, both belonging to the kings and their relatives as well as belonging to the rulers and the people. Due to the increasing demand for rubber on the world market, the Dutch government began to consolidate with regional kings to open plantations. In 1925 new Dutch-owned plantations were opened in the interior. Owners of large capital such as kings or nobles, traders, they are the ones who enjoy big profits, while rubber workers still get very small results.

Chinese merchants usually rented lands belonging to kings or nobles with a pacht system (borong rights). In addition, the traders as a container for rubber products from farmers. Dutch rubber plantations in the mid-20th century experienced several obstacles, especially labor difficulties. So at that time the Dutch government brought in workers from Java. Just like the rubber plantations in the Sintang Kingdom, there is also a shortage of labor.

The people's work is usually farming or growing vegetables and looking for forest products which are sold to traders in exchange for basic needs. With the entry of the Dutch into Sintang and political contalations with the Sintang kingdom, land leases and the opening up of the plantation sector to grow rubber became the main priority. During the reign of Ade Mohammad Djun, the Sintang kingdom made progress, especially in the field of education. But on the other hand, the Dutch began to introduce rubber plants to the people. The Dutch brought rubber seeds to Sintang which were ready to be planted.

With the soil structure and climate in Sintang, it is very suitable to be planted by rubber plants, based on the results of a study chaired by Ir. Owen. This greatly pleased the Dutch officials, who at that time practiced an open-door policy. Efforts to monopolize all fields including rubber plantations, especially at that time rubber became an export commodity and was badly needed by the international market.

From then on, the Dutch brought in rubber seeds, and the people were called upon to plant rubber on their land. Rubber seeds are brought in wooden boxes that are ready to be





planted. The rubber rods in the wooden boxes have grown to a height of about 10 cm to 15 cm. Each wooden box contains 20 rubber sticks, which are sold to the people at a price of f.12. People plant the rubber seeds on land or fields (huma) where the rice has been harvested. The location of fields (huma) which are often used as rubber plantations are in coastal areas or close to rivers, and not far from villages.

The rubber plantations belonged to the people who planted them. The age of the rubber tree that is ready to be incised and the results are taken is about 5 years. In order to maintain and control rubber plantations, the Dutch government made a rule, namely to make green letters from cardboard that read Dutch and Malay. The purpose of the letter was issued as a land title certificate, a letter to pay taxes and as a letter to receive coupons.

Administration is facilitated by the government and provided free of charge. To get the green letter, it is enough to report it to the village head either individually or collectively, which will then be reported to the rubber office. Then the government appointed an employee assigned to inspect and measure the garden. A few days later a green letter was sent to the garden owner through the village head.

The rules applied by the government are very strict, especially in carrying out rubber plantation activities. Starting from making a certificate of ownership of the garden, the process of planting rubber seedlings, maintenance to the process of tapping rubber trees is always under control. This is done in order to maintain the quality of rubber plants and the results of tapping and latex produced by farmers. Competition between rubber buyers has already occurred. There are even people who sell their rubber taps to Chinese traders. There are Chinese traders who become rubber collectors and immediately pick it up in the farmers' gardens.

Therefore, the Dutch government implemented a coupon system. With the aim that people who have good rubber gardens will be given a marker in the form of red paint or a bracelet on the rubber tree. So that every 4-6 months farmers who receive kopun from the Dutch government can sell their rubber taps to buyers or offices that have been determined by the government.

The number of coupons received by the people depends on the size of the garden, the cleanliness and regularity of planting rubber trees and the quality of the rubber trees that grow. Another compensation received by the people is that their rubber plantations are always checked by officers from the rubber service very diligently every day. With the





increasing demand for rubber supplies for the international market, the Dutch government promoted the clearing of rubber plantations and brought in foreign workers.

An interesting phenomenon in the history of the colonial social economy is the Cultivation System (Culturstelsel), which was implemented in Java in the 19th century. The form is economic exploitation on a large scale in order to seek the maximum profit for the benefit of the Dutch. The most important thing in the Cultivation System is about labor.

Exploitation of labor on a large scale, which is an obligation for the people to be involved in it. In 1840 the workforce involved in the Cultivation System was no less than 57% of the population on the island of Java which was then distributed to the islands which were concentrated in the plantation sector. The Cultivation System which is based on labor exploitation of course has a social impact. Forced labor is a traditional system of employing workers to serve the government and society which is used in the Cultivation System (L. T.J, 1998).

At the beginning of the 19th century in Java, the Cultivation System was controlled by the respective regions directly by the Javanese sultans and the regions were under the authority of the Dutch colonial government. The social structure is divided into two classes, namely, the upper class which consists of the sultan, relatives and officials or regents and their relatives and officials. While the lower class includes farmers who own land and their dependents.

The social structure in Java is not much different from that in Sintang. That the Dutch government entered into several contractual agreements with the Sintang kingdom to strengthen its political position and expand plantation land involving the people in it. The interests of the Dutch colonial government always burdened the common people, in order to get the maximum benefit. It is undeniable that resistance and opposition have always been carried out by the kingdom, as a result of distrust of the Dutch government.

Since the beginning of the 19th century, the entry of plantation investment in the archipelago has changed people's lives. The opening of large-scale plantations began right after 1870, when the Dutch East Indies Government's colonial Agrarian Law was enacted. After the enactment of the Agrarian Law of 1870, foreign investment in plantations entered massively. In West Kalimantan, investment enters and moves in the rubber and coconut plantation sector. The opening of plantations on a large scale brought workers or at that time called contract laborers who came from the island of Java.





Coolies work 10 hours a day for very little pay. No wonder many coolies try to escape, commit theft, and attack foremen who are reluctant to raise their salaries. Coolies who run away from the plantation will be chased by the plantation police and if caught they will be returned to the plantation. Punishments await them, for example unpaid work or contract extensions.

Industrialization in Europe encouraged Western nations to acquire colonies as a center for supplying raw materials, one of which was rubber. With the opening of a rubber plantation in Sintang, the recruitment of workers is increasingly being carried out. The rubber plantations in Sintang which are known to produce a lot of production are in Nanga Jetak. The workers in the rubber plantations come from indigenous people and people from outside Sintang.

The indigenous people are Dayaks and Malays who make their land for rubber plantations. While the plantations are managed by the government and entrepreneurs, the workers are imported from Java. The process of recruiting workers from Java is carried out by brokers or brought in by the government themselves and employed in private plantations

Rubber plantation workers in Sintang, who were imported from Java, were referred to by the indigenous population as Javanese Contracts. The presence of these contract workers cannot be separated from the impact of the forced cultivation political system. In addition, the ethical politics of the Dutch East Indies government, which sought to spread people on an island with a large population to be moved to an island that is still sparsely populated. With the intention that humans can be used for the benefit of the government, especially as workers in plantations and factories.

The workers brought in from the island of Java came from East Java, Central Java, Madura and West Java. Almost all of the workers brought in by the Dutch government were forced. In fact, many of the workers were victims of Dutch colonial abductions on the island of Java. The recruitment of these workers before arriving in West Kalimantan and spreading to Sintang, had already experienced a change of hands to European entrepreneurs coordinated by Dutch entrepreneurs.

The main tasks of contracted Javanese workers are taking care of the rubber plants, tapping the rubber to processing the sap water into thin sheets according to the molds that have been set. In addition to working in the gardens, there are also those who are employed in rubber processing factories. Prior to contract Java running its activities as tappers or processing sap water into sheets, they were trained by instructors from the government or





private entrepreneurs. They work very carefully because they are always supervised by the garden foreman. Very dangerous work risks make Jawa Contracts cautious. Rubber tree care is a determinant of the quality and age of the tree, so starting from the tapping process, to weeding wild plants around the tree is a concern.

The life of the contract Javanese is the responsibility of the government or the private entrepreneur who employs them. The salary they get is replaced to meet their daily needs. Some of them even ran away because they were unable to work with a heavy workload. The contracted Javanese get basic necessities every weekend. Entertainment for Java Contracts on weekends are tours to Sintang. Dutch entrepreneurs coordinate workers and in Sintang they get entertainment from regional arts such as Kuda Lumping and wayang kulit.

4.2. The Dynamics and Relations of Java Contracts With the Authorities

The Dutch colonial government made its colonies the economic center of their interests, especially in the agricultural sector. This was chosen because the occupied land has the potential to be planted with crops that are highly salable in the international market. Apart from that, forest products also received the attention of the Dutch colonial government to be bought and sold to traders in Europe. Although the amount is not as much as agricultural or plantation products.

Indirectly, when agricultural land or plantations are opened, it requires a lot of labor. Moreover, the land is located on plains and areas that are difficult to reach, so it requires a large amount of money to manage it. The deployment of land and labor was carried out by the plantations by force. In Java it is known as the *cultuurstelsel* or forced cultivation system (J. B. K. S. Toer, 1997).

The expansion and clearing of agricultural land and plantations outside Java marked the birth of large-scale industry in sparsely populated areas. Just as East Sumatra has become an important plantation center, so has Kalimantan. The number of workers in the area is so scarce that it is necessary to bring in from Java and mainland China. The need for labor on plantations is very necessary, so that recruitment is carried out on a massive scale. In the process of recruiting workers, the colonial government provided several provisions as guidelines in carrying out work contracts. The *poenaltiesanctie* (penalty sanction) ordinance forms the basis for the rules for work carried out on plantations outside Java.

It turns out that the mobility of labor is essentially not inferior to the mobility of capital. This happened due to the excessive intervention of the colonial government,





especially in preparing regulations and conditions to control entrepreneurs to invest their capital in the Dutch East Indies. The formation of the plantation society at the end of the 19th century, and the birth of the agrarian law in 1870 which marked the end of the forced cultivation system. Exploitation of natural resources in areas outside Java, is the concentration of the colonial government. This means that the system that was built indirectly for the colonial economy was the formation of a plantation community.

The delegation of authority from local authorities to the gardener does not only apply to land but also to matters of controlling labor. This happens because labor is more difficult to obtain than land. Coercion is needed to bind labor imported from other places. The coercion is done first by giving the down payment that has been received. Arriving at the plantation, the coolies are required to work immediately until the debt is paid off (J. B. K. S. Toer, 1997).

In practice, workers on plantations are always trapped mainly in paying their salaries. The obligation of workers to be in debt, is not considered a deviation. Starting from the work agreement which is usually in one year and the extension can be done automatically. When the worker still has a debt to the gardener, and as long as it has not been paid off, the worker must obey and be prohibited from quitting. If violated then all penalties will be applied in accordance with the law and the contents of the agreement.

Workers cannot unilaterally terminate employment, and that is a violation. The role of local rulers turned out to be very influential with the policies made by the colonial government. At first the kings made it easy for the colonial government to run their political system in order to progress and share common interests. But on the other hand, especially workers feel disadvantaged. Violent practices against workers are often found on plantations. Especially for workers purchased from the colonial government.

In terms of development, the forced cultivation system is an attempt to build a plantation economy with labor. Profits from the external economy are created to form social capital. Forced distribution of plantation crops and work skills throughout Indonesia. Gradually by the large plantation system (Corporate Plantation System) generally occurs by itself. This is because of the success of the forced cultivation system which has built the infrastructure of the export economy so that private ownership is slowly running well. Many large plantation entrepreneurs (private in the Dutch East Indies) achieved success (C. G. S. Supomo, 1983).





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The collapse of Malacca in 1511, had an impact on Singapore as a free port since 1819, not only to attract large trade in the archipelago. Rather it also acts as a catalyst that triggers trading activities. To limit shipping and trade with Singapore, the Colonial government opened free ports in order to become its competitors in Pontianak and Sambas in 1834. This was done in order to attract some of the trade from Singapore's ports.

Shipping and trade activities from Sintang to Pontianak, both the volume of trade and the number of ships arriving and departing indicate that the port of Pontianak is ranked second after the port of Singapore. This is based on the fact that every year the ships arriving and departing show an average of 5 to 7 ships per year and carry 2,000 to 3,000 tons of trading commodities per ship (Hasanuddin, et, al, 2000).

The relationship between the results of the plantation system in Sintang, based on facts and sources relevant to the interests of the authorities, indigenous peoples and the government. That all of them took their respective roles and positions, on the side of the kingdom, which of course was very close to the colonial government, always looking for and supporting government policies. This is due to various agreements between the government and the kingdom which lead to tax revenues from land rent. Meanwhile, the government utilizes existing human and natural resources in order to get the maximum benefit.

The policies implemented were detrimental to the indigenous and contracted Javanese workers. Especially in the profit-sharing system that is not balanced with what they have agreed on. In profit sharing, except for land, the owner usually submits part or all of the required business capital in natural forms, such as seeds or seedlings, livestock and tools or in the form of persekot which can affect the requirements for profit sharing (A. M. P. A. S.. Marwan, 1985).

Production sharing agreements in the Dutch East Indies were often combined with land lease and pawn agreements, which worked. There is no definite information regarding the profit-sharing system in West Kalimantan, because it depends on the conditions and agreements between the land owner or king, businessmen and the Dutch colonial





government. There is a record that reports about profit sharing from the Dayak Kayan tribe who gave up part of their harvest, but it is not clear who is the owner of the land.

This is also the case in Sintang, which hands over one-fifth of its crops to the authorities and the government. Moreover, when the government had provided plant seeds and equipment to the natives (farmers), the farmers were obliged to submit their harvests to the Dutch colonial government. Moreover, the Javanese Kontakt workers are basically workers who are legally owned entirely by the government, so everything they do must be followed.

According to Dr. van der Kolff, basically the cultivator is obliged to plant and maintain a number of rubber trees, the seeds of which are provided by the employer, so that in the end the entire rubber plantation belongs to the employer. According to J. Meyer, in West Kalimantan sometimes owners make it mandatory to hand over half of their gardens to those who clear them. Owners of gardens or land with stronger capital basically prefer wage work (A. M. P. A. S.. Marwan, 1985).

During the reign of Ade Mohammad Djun, the Sintang kingdom was divided into several districts. Each district appointed a Demang who became the head. Demang is assisted by a deaf interpreter, a blasting (tax), an opas (pagarpraja) and a matri, and there are several employees. Before Ade Mohammad Djun ruled, the panembahans in the Sintang Kingdom had resisted and even had some resistance. This happened because of several agreements that were made detrimental to the kingdom, especially in terms of land leases and granting permits to open plantations. This means that the relationship between the ruler or the kingdom of Sintang with the Dutch colonial government was not well established. Especially with natives, both Dayak and Sintang Malays.

Sintang is a very good area for planting rubber trees, so the Dutch colonial government made various efforts to realize its interests. With all the tactics and strategies in the end rubber plantations can be opened in several areas in Sintang, such as in Nanga Jetak which is the center of rubber plantations and processing.

From a social perspective, the government has tried to establish good relations with the people. In running the system on the plantations, the Dutch colonial government recruited the royal family as employees in charge of overseeing the gardens and taxes. Meanwhile, farmers were taken from the common people and brought in workers from the island of Java. Local or indigenous farmers work for their own gardens, while contract Javanese live in barracks that have been prepared by the government or entrepreneurs.





The Dutch colonial government carried out all the rules according to the agreement between the rulers, local farmers and Javanese Contracts. The way he works is disciplined and firm in acting, that's what makes the people amazed by the Netherlands. In any work the Dutch colonial government did not like to deviate from the established rules. Corruption and bribery are almost unheard of among employees, both white and colored. If someone is caught committing irregularities, the employee is immediately fired and even goes to prison.

However, it is undeniable that the treatment of contracted Javanese workers is sometimes violent. They are blackmailed, starting from their working time to their monthly salary. The life of the Javanese Contract workers was very sad, they were treated as slaves. They have to work hard for low wages. If anyone escapes and is caught, they will be put in jail.

Although the Dutch colonial government provided time or entertainment for Javanese Contracts on Saturdays and Sundays, it was not worth the misery they felt. The interaction of the contracted Javanese workers with the natives is very good. This is evidenced among those who are married to local residents. This happened because when workers from Java were employed in rubber plantations, they did not bring their families with them.

In fact, they were the victims of abductions carried out by the Dutch colonial government in Java. There was a good relationship between the Javanese contract workers and the residents of Sintang, so that they did not return to Java until the end of their lives. This dynamic is what happened, both in terms of Javanese language and culture being introduced to the people of Sintang, as in Nanga Jetak.

West Kalimantan is a very suitable and strategic area for the development of high quality rubber plants. The role of labor became a major factor in the rubber plantation system, especially in Sintang in the late 19th century. Historical records show that many of the owners of rubber plantations and their workforce are secure. Their welfare is influenced by the price of rubber in the market and the company. The government and stakeholders need to make regulations so that rubber prices are stable and do not harm plantation owners and workers.

5. CONCLUSION

Geographically, Sintang is very strategic, containing fertile soil with a variety of forest plants and rich earth. The social and economic conditions of the people are still simple so that this situation provides an opportunity for outsiders to take the opportunity to extract





the wealth of the equatorial earth. The expanse of virgin forest creates a desire to manage it productively. An important export commodity in Sintang is fused gum, which is very rare, namely durian sap, rabaah sap, banyan sap, mawang sap, rice sap, furnace sap, ketipai sap, jackfruit sap, white gum, kerimbang sap and milk gum.

The role of the ruler is the main factor in Sintang's progress in the context of rubber plantation concessions. The arrival of the Dutch colonial government to take advantage of the existing resources in Sintang, sought to establish good relations with the Sintang kingdom. The need for manpower forced the Dutch to bring in workers from the island of Java. Javanese contract is a term from the Sintang people towards workers from the island of Java in rubber plantations. For a long time the Javanese contract in Sintang, then gave birth to a tradition that he brought from Java. Javanese arts and culture are introduced through performances during workers' holidays and weekends in the shelter barracks.

Good relations between the Javanese contract with the natives, as evidenced by many of them marry natives. However, it is sad to see the lives of Javanese contract workers being treated by the Dutch colonial government. They are always pressured by the workload in the garden and low wages. Under these conditions, some of the Javanese contract workers fled from the barracks on the plantations.

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