

interpreter. On this occasion, however, he received us personally in his lavishly furnished drawing room.

At first the Asantehene was rather uncommunicative, but I was able to draw him out by asking about his Ashanti territory and its people. I mentioned that I had been shown the well, located several hundred yards from the fort in which British forces were besieged by the Ashantis in 1900, and that I had been informed on how the chivalrous Ashantis had allowed the British to leave the fort every evening to go to the well. This reference appeared to please the Asantehene and he responded by telling us about his people, the size of his territory, supplemented by a few caustic remarks about the recent election. I asked him if he travelled much and he replied that his travelling was mostly confined to his own Ashanti territory. I suggested that he come to Canada sometime. Perhaps unfortunately, the local African newsman attached great importance to this remark of mine. In Accra the following day, the daily papers gave considerable space to the fact that the Asantehene had been invited by me to come to Canada. I am told that Prime Minister Nkrumah expressed some concern over the incident. As a result, Dr. Ault called upon the Prime Minister and explained the circumstances of the so-called invitation. He reported that the Prime Minister no longer feels any concern. It seems that in the local political arena, the Government is trying to retain the support and goodwill of the Asantehene but, at the same time, to persuade him to reduce his traditional powers and position to a supporting role in the new State. Evidently there was some apprehension that we had given the Asantehene too much of a buildup.

While I was in Kumasi, Mrs. Prudham in Accra spoke and officiated at the opening of a fair which was under the sponsorship of a women's organization similar to our Women's Institute.

During the last two years the Government of the Gold Coast, in preparation for the Independence observances, built a luxury hotel, consisting of 100 rooms. It is a beautifully designed structure that would do credit to any capital in the world. It seems that these people place great emphasis on material evidence of their progress. The Government has also constructed a State House in which the State Ball was held. It is most attractively designed and expensively draped. The building was very suitable indeed for the State Ball at which was served a buffet dinner for nearly 3,000 guests, but I heard remarks that it might be difficult for the authorities to find a use for the State House after the Independence events.

At the State Banquet, where representatives of 65 countries were accommodated in the huge dining room, the Commonwealth representatives were seated at the head table on either side of Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Kent, the Governor-General and Lady Arden-Clarke and the Prime Minister. The Canadian representatives had an honoured position as representatives of the Senior Member of the Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom. One sour note of the evening was the rapidly circulated rumour that Mr. Nixon was disgruntled because he did not have a place of honour. He sat at a side table not far from the position of honour, but his seating was evidently the result of an alphabetical arrangement. This incident seemed to bother the Right Honourable R.A. Butler more than anyone, as he mentioned it and voiced regrets whenever he spoke to me, but I am convinced no slight whatever was intended by the Ghanaians. If there was any embarrassment I am sure it was caused inadvertently. Mr. Nixon certainly tried to spread American goodwill, but there were casual remarks about his too obvious and zealous methods.