

13819 0001 000

Signatur *P. Prempeh*

Datum 28. April 1923 192

West Africa (London)

Nr. 326

"THE RETURN OF PREMPEH."

Under the above heading the following letter appeared in the "New Statesman" for April 7th:—

I have just read a letter from Mr. John Harris, on the subject of the return to Ashanti of King Prempeh, published in your issue of January 27th. Mr. Harris writes: "From the terms of Sir F. Guggisberg's announcement, and from other information available, it seems that it is proposed that the return of King Prempeh should synchronise with the termination of the present Governor's period of service —."

Your correspondent would appear to have heard an incorrect paraphrase of a statement made by his Excellency in the Legislative Council on September 22nd, 1922. In reply to a motion urging the immediate repatriation of Prempeh, his Excellency laid emphasis on the sympathetic attitude of the Government to the exile, and said: "Now I do not say that Prempeh's return would cause any disturbance or any very serious effects in Ashanti. Undoubtedly, however, the majority, or I would say rather the whole, of the Ashanti Chiefs are not quite sure that they want Prempeh back. I do not think they would object to it if the Government brought him back, but there is a little difference between the two cases. As a matter of fact, the question resolves itself into the date on which Prempeh should be permitted to return, that is what it has come to now. The Government adopts the principle that he should return, the question of the date has to be settled."

And again: "I would not like to give a date, but I personally believe that some time before the tenure of my own appointment—if it runs its normal course—is completed, King Prempeh will be back in Africa."

I am, etc.,

VINCENT BASEVI,
Private Secretary.

Government House, Accra.
March 6th.

The above letter bears out what was written in an editorial article appearing in WEST AFRICA for February 3rd, as follows:—

Some injustice has unintentionally been done General Guggisberg in this matter by the publication of the statement that he has in speeches at the Gold Coast spoken as if the return of Prempeh were dependent upon his (the Governor's) own departure from the Colony, and as if the one event could not take place without the other, or earlier than the other. The Governor has not, so far as we know, said anything capable of this construction. He has said that he hoped before his term of office had expired the release of Prempeh would take place, but he did not couple the two events as in any way dependent upon one another, and to construe his remarks as if they meant that the release cannot and will not take place during his term of office might be to create an unfair prejudice against him in the Gold Coast and the Dependency.

13819 0002000

The African World (London)

Nr. **1069**

Gold Coast.

EX-KING PREMPEH.

**Coomassie Chiefs' Petition for His
Return to Ashanti.**

After Twenty-seven Years.

We have received a copy of a petition of the Chiefs in Coomassie to his Excellency the Governor of the Gold Coast in respect of the release of ex-King Prempeh to Ashanti. It is dated March 21, and the full text is as follows :—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY BRIGADIER-
GENERAL SIR FREDERICK
GORDON GUGGISBERG, K.C.M.G.,
GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-
CHIEF OF THE GOLD COAST
COLONY AND ITS DEPENDENCIES,
ACCRA,

THROUGH HIS HONOUR THE CHIEF
COMMISSIONER OF ASHANTI,
COOMASSIE.

The Humble petition of the undersigned Headchiefs KWAMIN KYEM, KWAMIN AKOWUA, JOHN KWAMIN FRIMPONG, OSEI TUTU, KOFI DUMFEH, KWESI KUAMA, KWABINA KOKOFU, KWAMIN KUSI, OWUSU SEKYEREH, ASSAMOA TOTOE, KOJO AKOTO, YAW BUATING, KWABINA SEKYEREH, KOJO POKU, KWABINA SAFU, KWABINA KUFUOR, KWAKU DUAH, KWAKU ATTA, KWABINA EDU, KOFI OWUSU for themselves, Subchiefs, ELDERS and all classes of their subjects respectfully sheweth :—

1. That Your Excellency's humble petitioners are very sorry for the grievous tone of a letter addressed to them by the Chief Commissioner, Ashanti, under date the 27th February, 1923, intimating that "Your Excellency is not prepared to recommend the return of Prempeh either to Coomassie or to any place in the Gold Coast Colony at present, but that Your Excellency has no objection to Prempeh being brought to NIGERIA early next year."

2. That it is now 27 years since Prempeh was deported from this country by the British Government, and, considering the pain and anguish that he has been undergoing during his exile by the losses sustained in the deaths of his mother, father, brother, and several of his chiefs, remaining at present PREMPEH himself and two only of his chiefs, we beg most respectfully and submissively to approach Your Excellency with a prayer for mercy in behalf of PREMPEH and his two surviving chiefs, ASIBI of

Kokofu, and ASAFU BUACHIE of Coomassie.

3. That this is about the fifth time that this matter (of importance to us) has come before the British Government and we most humbly beg to ask that the miserable position in which PREMPEH has been placed by the force of circumstance may at this juncture be considered by Your Excellency from a paternal and sympathetic heart, so that the same Royal Clemency as had been exercised in other cases might be exercised in the case of PREMPEH.

4. We would humbly refer to the cases of King AGGREY of Cape Coast, King KOBINA GHAN ELMINA, KING ENMIL KWOW of WASSAW, and Chiefs TENGE and GERALDO of KWITTA, who, for one reason or other were all deported by the British Government, but were ultimately pardoned, released, and allowed to return to their own homes. We must also mention the case of the Ashanti Chiefs who were taken to Accra as Political Prisoners after the rising of 1920. These chiefs have been released and returned to their homes three years ago, and they have since been living peaceably in this country.

5. That in view of all that Ashanti did during the great European War, which is a sufficient proof of our unshaken loyalty to the Government, your Excellency's humble petitioners sincerely trust that you will recommend to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the desirability of moving His Majesty the King in Council to be graciously pleased to extend to PREMPEH the same Royal clemency as had been exercised towards the Kings and Chiefs whose names have been mentioned herein, and to send him back to his home instead of anywhere else.

6. That your Excellency's humble petitioners beg to pledge their word of honour that PREMPEH'S repatriation and return to Ashanti will cause no troubles, disadvantages or injurious effects in this country, and as a guarantee of good faith, your humble petitioners hereby agree to appear as sureties for PREMPEH and his two surviving chiefs.

7. That your Excellency's humble petitioners are craving for the exercise of his Majesty's pardon and clemency on PREMPEH'S behalf and for his immediate release and return to his own country in order to avert the possibility of his ever dying in exile.

AND AS IN DUTY BOUND your Excellency's humble petitioners will ever pray.

The signatories are: Kwesi Nuama (head linguist), Kwamin Kyem, Kwamin Akowua, John Kwamin Frimpong, Osei Tutu, Kofi Dumfeh, Kwabina Kokofu, Kwamin Kusi, Owusu Sekyereh, Kojo Poku, Assamoa Totoe, Kojo Akoto, Yaw Buating, Kwabina Sekyereh, Kwabina Safu, Kwabina Kufuor, Kwaku Duah, Kwaku Atta, Kwabina Edu, and Kofi Owusu (Headchiefs).

The writer and witness to marks is Mr. Robt. F. A. Prempeh.

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The African World (London)

Nr. *80*

THE EXILED EX-KING

AN APPEAL FOR THE RETURN OF PREMPEH.

Special to the "African World"

It is unfortunate that a degree of hesitancy marks the decision of Government as to the repatriation of Ex-King Prempeh. The public are familiar with the circumstances of his deportation and the part, if any, that he personally played in them. But what is not so well-known is the consensus of local sentiment that the time is overdue for the exercise of the royal clemency. It is true that the principle of his return has been adopted by government, and that the date only remains to be settled. But, surely, the latter must be of far greater moment to his people to whom the suspense must be somewhat tantalising. According to the present official dictum, it may be tomorrow or two years hence, and who knows what may happen if the later date is chosen.

It has been suggested that the Ashanti Chiefs are not unanimous in the request that the Ex-King should be sent back. But then, whoever would expect unanimity upon a matter of this sort? Following closely upon the events which led up to Prempeh's exile a number of third rate men crept into authority as Chiefs, who may have their own reasons for not wishing the ex-King back. But, even as it is, the remarkable way in which the principal Chiefs have stressed the desire for his return must convince the most perfunctory official mind that the people are in earnest.

It appears that in a reply to a former petition Government suggested that Prempeh would be returned to Nigeria for the present. To this has been sent in a rejoinder, signed by Head Linguist Kwesi Nuama, Head Chiefs Kwamin Kyem, Kwamin Akowua, John K. Frimpton, and sixteen other Head Chiefs of Ashanti. These command minor Chieftaincies and cover a community of interests which cannot be ignored.

In paragraph two of the petition, which bears date March 1st 1923, addressed to His Excellency the Governor through His Honour the Chief Commissioner of Ashanti, the petitioners express regret at the grievous tone of a letter addressed to them by the Chief Commissioner, Ashanti, under date the 27th February, 1923, intimating that "your Excellency is prepared to recommend the return of Prempeh either to Kumasi or to any part in the Gold Coast Colony at present, but that your Excellency has no objection to Prempeh being brought to Nigeria early next year." "It seems, then, that in official contemplation the date of Prempeh's return is fixed at "early next year," the only question being whether he is to suffer further exile by being sent for the present to Nigeria. As to this, it will occur to the average mind that it will be more tantalising still to the people to adopt the course suggested.

for mercy on his behalf might be favourably considered and himself and his two surviving chiefs repatriated. And it proceeds in paragraph three: "That this is about the fifth time that this matter (of great importance to us) has come before the British Government, and we most humbly beg to ask that the miserable position in which Prempeh has been placed by the force of circumstances may at this juncture be considered by your Excellency from a paternal and sympathetic heart, so that the same Royal Clemency as had been exercised in other cases might be exercised in the case of Prempeh."

And the remarkable part of the matter is that this prayer appears to be voiced by entire British West Africa, for in the published resolutions of the second session of the National Congress is contained an humble request that His Majesty may be pleased to consider the case of Prempeh on the occasion of His Royal Birthday.

One can only trust that, in view of the strong views expressed on this matter from every angle of public opinion, officialdom might be moved to send Prempeh back to his people at the earliest possible moment.

The African World (London)

Nr. *80*

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AN APPEAL FOR THE RETURN OF PREMPEH.

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The prayer of the petitioners is, it being now twenty seven years since Prempeh was deported, and considering the pain and anguish he had undergone during his exile, and the bereavements and losses sustained by him, a prayer

for mercy on his behalf might be favourably considered and himself and his two surviving chiefs repatriated. And it proceeds in paragraph three: "That this is about the fifth time that this matter (of great importance to us) has come before the British Government, and we most humbly beg to ask that the miserable position in which Prempeh has been placed by the force of circumstances may at this juncture be considered by your Excellency from a paternal and sympathetic heart, so that the same Royal Clemency as had been exercised in other cases might be exercised in the case of Prempeh."

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Signatur P. Prempeh

Datum 30. Juni 1923 192 .

13819 10004 000

West Africa (London)

335

Nr.

THE CASE OF EX-KING PREMPEH.

A European correspondent writes : " Please publish the accompanying note which appears in the ' Daily Telegraph ' of June 25th, sent by a correspondent at Accra. Is the Government going to repeat in his case the heartless folly shown in the case of Ja-Ja, and not let him get home alive? "

The extract from the " Daily Telegraph " is as follows :—

" It is unfortunate that the decision of the Government as to the repatriation of ex-King Prempeh is being delayed. The public are familiar with the circumstances of his deportation, and the part, if any, that he personally played in them. But what is not so well known is the consensus of local feeling that the time is overdue for the exercise of the Royal clemency. It is true that the principle of his return has been adopted by the Government, and that only the date remains to be settled. But surely the latter must be of far greater moment to his people, to whom the suspense must be somewhat tantalising. According to the present official dictum, it may be to-morrow or two years hence, and who knows what may happen if the later date be chosen? "

" It has been suggested that the Ashanti chiefs are not unanimous in the request that the ex-King should be sent back. But whoever would expect unanimity upon a matter of this sort? Following closely upon the events which led up to Prempeh's exile a number of third-rate men crept into authority as chiefs, who may have their own reasons for not wishing the ex-king back. But, even as it is, the remarkable way in which the principal chiefs have stressed the desire for his return must convince the most perfunctory official mind that the people are really and seriously in earnest. And the remarkable part of the matter is that this prayer appears to be voiced by the whole of British West Africa, for the published resolutions of the second session of the National Congress contain a humble request that the King may be pleased to consider the case of Prempeh on the occasion of his birthday."

13819 | 0005 000

Signatur

Datum

7. Juli 1923

192

The African World (London)

Nr. 1078

PREMPEH'S APPEAL.

Help and Deliverance Wanted from Trouble and Distress.

Following is the text of a letter from ex-King Prempeh, now in exile at Seychelles, which has been widely circulated on the West Coast:—

"Dear Friend,—This is my first letter which I most humbly submit for your kind perusal and consideration, and to be good enough to come to my help and deliver me from my trouble and distress.

"You would remember that twenty-seven years ago, when the English came to capture Kumasi and to take me prisoner, and because I loved my country and people, and my people loved me, the whole Ashanti people wanted to fight the English army to save their country and to prevent me from being captured. But not to ruin my country and people I refused to fight, and so I surrendered to the British army. Thereupon I was taken prisoner, together with the Queen, my mother, my father, brother, and some of my Chiefs.

Twenty-seven Years in Seychelles.

"Again, when we were detained at the Cape Coast Castle, my two Chiefs, Kwaku Fokuo, and Kwami Boatin took lawyers to plead for my release, but all their possibilities were in vain, and, instead of being released, we were all removed to Sierra Leone, and from there to Seychelles now twenty-seven years. During this time I have lost my mother, father, brother, and almost all of my Chiefs.

"Now there remain six Chiefs, and out of the six one is blind, the remaining are old and ill. (When this letter was written I have received instructions that four Chiefs are to be repatriated within nine days' notice. There now remains two Chiefs with me, Asih and Asafu Buachi.)

"We consider ourselves very lonely as compared to how we were so crowded.

The Somaliland Example.

"There are now in Seychelles as political prisoners Kings of different nations including myself. The King of Somaliland has been here as political prisoner nearly two years, and lately his relatives and family had stood surety for him to the British Government to repatriate him to his country with the conditions that they would be held responsible in case their King causes any further trouble on reaching his country. The English have agreed to their terms, and in May, 1922, he was allowed to go back to his country. So, dear friend, I earnestly and humbly pray you to cordially unite with the Amanhene of Ashanti, to whom I have all written, and be pleased to sign a bond and stand surety for my repatriation with the conditions that you would be responsible for any peaceful settlement in Ashanti.

"In case the English Government does not wish that I should be back to exercise my kingship, I am pleased, as well as my few Chiefs, to come to our native land to be private men, and to remain in peace, and loyal servant to the English Sovereign.

"I hope that you being my friend, yourself and my family would not allow me to starve. I have sent copy of this letter to every Omanhin of Ashanti, and so I wish you to cordially unite and carry out this task to a successful end.—I remain, your dear friend, etc., etc.,

(Sgd.)

E. Prempeh, ex-King of Ashanti."

13819 | 0006 000

The African World (London)

1109 .

Nr.

THE RETURN OF PREMPEH.

The hesitation of the Gold Coast Government to consent to the return of the exiled Chief of the Ashantis is a little difficult to understand. One would have thought that the guarantees given by the influential section of this highly sensitive people that the restoration of the exile to his own land would lead to no political disturbance would be sufficient to dispel official alarms. Further, Prempeh's ancient enemies, the chiefs and people of the Gold Coast Colony, are urging that he should be allowed to end his days in the land of his birth. A concession to African sentiment in this respect would not only be gracious, but have that touch of Imperial dignity which appeals most of all to the Oriental side of African mentality—the gesture of regal expansiveness which disdains to be vindictive. The effect of such a gesture would be incalculable in maintaining good-will towards the British administration, whereas to allow Prempeh to die in lonely exile must inevitably stir up some underground rancour. That this must be clear to the administration of the Gold Coast is unimpeachable. The administration of Ashanti is not composed of men who go about with their eyes shut. There must be some other grave reason, of which we do not know the details, which stands in the way of this fine gesture of Imperial power that the return of Prempeh from banishment would indicate. Its spontaneity has been already spoilt by the evasive delays with which the appeals have been met. The time, in our view, has now come when either consent should be given or the reasons for non-consent be explicitly and publicly stated. Nothing really beneficial—but quite the reverse—can transpire from the continued treatment of this matter as a State mystery. Those who know African mentality will grasp the significance of this point of view, and appreciate the necessity of some kind of definite official announcement on the subject.

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Signatur *P. Prempeh*
Datum 22. Okt. 1924 192

The Times (London)

Nr. 43789

PREMPEH OF ASHANTI.

END OF 28 YEARS' EXILE.

Prempeh, the last King of Ashanti, who was deposed by the British in 1896, and exiled, first to Elmina and subsequently to the Seychelles, is now on his way back to Ashanti. A Reuter telegram from Gibraltar announces the arrival of Prempeh at that port yesterday accompanied by two sons and an official of the Gold Coast Service. From Gibraltar Prempeh will be taken to Liverpool, where he will tranship for the Gold Coast.

Two or three years ago several of the Ashanti chiefs who were deported to the Seychelles with Prempeh were allowed to return home, and the Ashanti petitioned that the ex-King himself might also be allowed to come back. After much delay this request was granted. Prempeh returns to Ashanti not as King, but as a private person. During his 28 years of exile he has become a Christian. While at the Seychelles he had many companions in exile, among them, for a short time, Zaghlul Pasha. Others were Mwanga, the ex-King of Buganda (who died at the Seychelles), Kabarega, the warrior King of Bunyoro—who, eventually released, died on his way back to Central Africa—and Seyyid Khaled of Zanzibar.

Prempeh, then a young man, became King of Ashanti after a long desolating civil war in March, 1888, his title as King being Kwaka Dua III. To put an end to misgovernment and raids on the Gold Coast Prempeh was called upon in 1895 to accept a British protectorate, a force under Sir Francis Scott being dispatched to compel submission. Prempeh's exile followed.

The golden stool, on which at his coronation Prempeh had been enstooled, was hidden by the Ashanti. The search for it was the cause of the revolt of 1900 and of the siege of Coomassie. Not till 1921 was the stool discovered, and then the British authorities, having learned that it was regarded as the chief religious symbol of the Ashanti, laid no claim to it. This is believed to have dispelled the last lingering resentment felt by the Ashanti against the British and to have rendered possible the return of Prempeh.

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The African World (London)

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THE RETURN OF PREMPEH.

By this week's steamer Prempeh, the ex-king of Ashanti, has returned to his country. During his long exile at the Seychelles his outlook on life has been completely changed. He left Ashanti a pagan and an absolute monarch; he returns a baptised Christian, a private gentleman, and a loyal subject of the British Crown. But the change in himself is hardly as great as the change in his people and country. The once turbulent and war-like Ashantis have become one of the most peaceful and progressive tribes of the Gold Coast Protectorate; and have thrown their energies into the development of the resources of their country as vigorously as they formerly devoted themselves to war. The country has—thanks to the expert and friendly British administration—been opened to trade by the railway and motor roads. The once mysterious and inaccessible city of Coomassie—formerly a centre of barbarism—is now the terminus of a railway from the chief port of the Gold Coast; the little village of attendants and hangers-on of the Court has become a large and thriving commercial town, and the seat of one of the principal educational institutions of West Africa. The gallant Ashanti tribes have wholeheartedly accepted British rule, and the prosperity engendered by the wise administration of sympathetic Commissioners has implanted in them contentment and satisfaction with their rulers. The one grievance which they cherished at the long exile of their former monarch and the circumstances of his deposition will be removed by his return. There is no danger of political troubles in consequence of this act of clemency. The Ashantis' sentiment of nationality will be gratified, but, having tasted the peace and popular freedom they have enjoyed as British subjects, they are too shrewd to desire to sacrifice these substantial benefits for the arbitrary rule of their former monarchy and the shadowy glories of national independence. The return of the ex-monarch will put the seal on their confidence in the consideration for their racial pride, and the sincerity, of their rulers fostered by the incident of the Golden Stool.

1147

PREMPEH GOES HOME.

THE EX-KING OF ASHANTI SAILS FROM LIVERPOOL.

His long exile over, ex-King Prempeh, the former ruler of Ashanti, arrived at Liverpool to-day (Monday) in the Anchor liner "Olympia," writes the "Evening News" Liverpool correspondent. He is going home.

Captured by a British force in 1896, he was deported from his own country, and has spent the intervening 28 years in the Seychelles, the British group of islands in the Indian Ocean.

Prempeh, who is 54, was accompanied in the ship by a large retinue of servants, in addition to members of his family, the party totalling about 60. They made quite a picture on deck—the ex-King himself in brown shoes, slate-coloured suit, a Homburg hat, and a brown mackintosh, the children with closely cropped curly hair, carrying or wearing huge straw hats, and smiling mothers—big, handsome women—who seemed to be burdened with clothes.

The ex-King said: "I am very glad to go home to my country, although the British Government has been most kind to me. I have lived a happy life in the Seychelles, and have received letters from home. Now I am going to Ashanti I am overjoyed." He stated that he had had several hundred wives, but had sent them all home again when he became a Christian, and "started to go to church in a top hat."

"Are you going to get married again?" I asked. He smiled—at the same time displaying a wonderful set of snow-white teeth—and said, "I think I want one wife now, and I hope to marry an educated Ashanti woman."

During the conversation the ex-King mentioned that while at Seychelles he had acted as magistrate among the natives. "I used to fine them as much as 10s. when they were very naughty," he said.

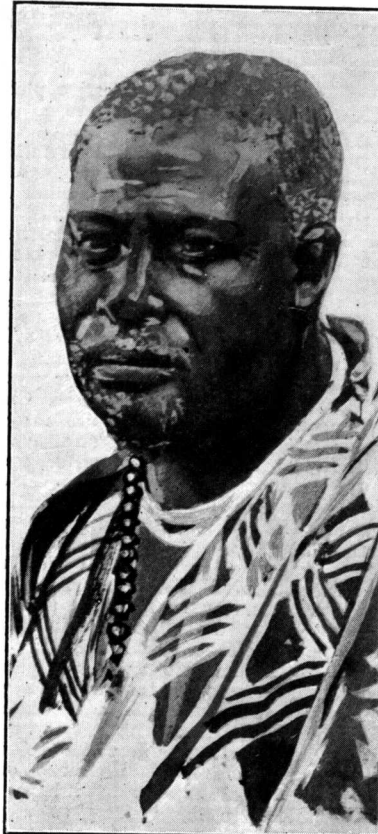
In the ship he became a very popular figure during the voyage from Bombay. He is extremely fond of draughts, and went from one end of the ship to the other challenging everybody and vanquishing them without suffering a single reverse.

He is proud of his old chief, General Asafu Boakye, who is a member of the party. The general is 95 years of age, and has a closely cropped grey beard. He fought against Sir Garnet Wolseley in 1874.

PREMPEH—PAST AND PRESENT.

(From the Manchester Guardian.)

The stout and merry old negro who has just touched at Liverpool on his way home to Ashanti after twenty-eight years of exile in the Seychelles has little of the bogey about him now. But Prempeh in his prime was a figure to scare Sunday Schools with. The illustrated papers of the 'nineties abounded in lively drawings of the wholesale decapitation of slaves to fill the Great Blood Bowl that was one of Prempeh's prides, and of the honest citizens of Coomassie collecting teeth from the skulls that used to litter the sacrificial grove. At a period when we were enthusiastically driving Christianity and trade routes through a reluctant Africa, Prempeh could not hope to survive. His Ashantis, indeed, had by that time enjoyed an unusually long independence for a people so entirely shocking in their customs. They made a drinking-cup out of a British Commissioner's skull in 1824, and in 1867 one of Prempeh's predecessors on the Golden Stool could remark complacently, "White man bring many cannon to the bush; but the bush is stronger than the cannon." Even Lord Wolseley, with the 42nd Highlanders, though he took Coomassie in 1873, could not scare the Ashantis into permanent good behaviour. The



["African World" Portrait.]

EX-KING PREMPEH OF ASHANTI,
who is returning to West Africa.

exports is the true recipe for African happiness. By the time the dual feat was fully accomplished Prempeh had already passed a considerable time in exile. He will find some astonishing changes on his return, for the Golden Stool and the Blood Bowl have both gone to adorn British collections, and a flourishing network of schools gives the young Ashantian something less grisly to think about than blood sacrifices.

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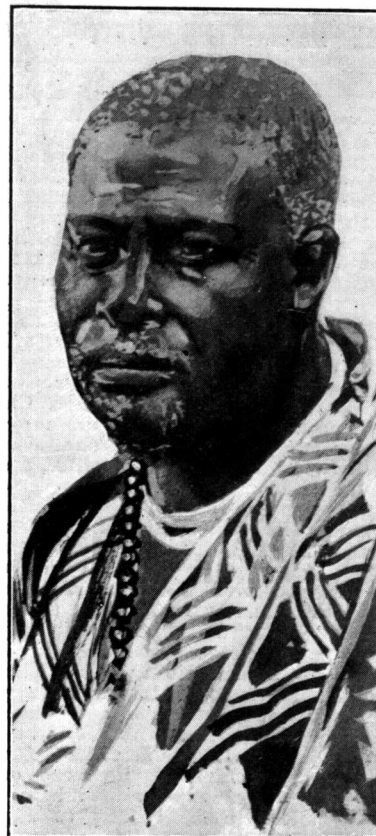
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["African World" Portrait.
EX-KING PREMPEH OF ASHANTI,
who is returning to West Africa.

exports is the true recipe for African happiness. By the time the dual feat was fully accomplished Prempeh had already passed a considerable time in exile. He will find some astonishing changes on his return, for the Golden Stool and the Blood Bowl have both gone to adorn British collections, and a flourishing network of schools gives the young Ashantian something less grisly to think about than blood sacrifices.

PREMPEH—PAST AND PRESENT.

(From the Manchester Guardian.)

The stout and merry old negro who has just touched at Liverpool on his way home to Ashanti after twenty-eight years of exile in the Seychelles has little of the boggy about him now. But Prempeh in his prime was a figure to scare Sunday Schools with. The illustrated papers of the 'nineties abounded in lively drawings of the wholesale decapitation of slaves to fill the Great Blood Bowl that was one of Prempeh's prides, and of the honest citizens of Coomassie collecting teeth from the skulls that used to litter the sacrificial grove. At a period when we were enthusiastically driving Christianity and trade routes through a reluctant Africa, Prempeh could not hope to survive. His Ashantis, indeed, had by that time enjoyed an unusually long independence for a people so entirely shocking in their customs. They made a drinking-cup out of a British Commissioner's skull in 1824, and in 1867 one of Prempeh's predecessors on the Golden Stool could remark complacently, "White man bring many cannon to the bush; but the bush is stronger than the cannon." Even Lord Wolseley, with the 42nd Highlanders, though he took Coomassie in 1873, could not scare the Ashantis into permanent good behaviour. The considerable campaign of 1896, in which Prince Henry of Battenberg died, and a sensational siege and relief of Coomassie in 1900 were needed to convince these peculiarly unrepentant savages that they really must stop ensuring their chief's happiness in the next world by butchering his slaves when he died, and that a plentiful supply of European

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Signatur *P. Prempeh*
Datum 20. Dez. 1924 192

The African World (London)

NE 1154.

Prempeh's Return.

Some misapprehension appears to have been caused by a few words in my note on this subject in last week's issue. I am far from supposing or suggesting that there has been or will be any persecution of Prempeh. I am quite sure that he and his party were treated with all courtesy and consideration during the voyage from the Seychelles to the Gold Coast by the escorting officers. His return to the Colony has, according to the local newspapers, evidently aroused a local enthusiasm which may not always be guided by discretion, making his position a delicate one calling for much tact, which the Chief Commissioner can be trusted to handle with understanding and sympathy. It is also well known that His Excellency Sir Gordon Guggisberg is exceedingly anxious to make the return of the exiled King of Ashantiland to his home as pleasant as possible, and watches contemporary developments in that direction with his characteristic paternal regard for the best interests of the native population of the Colony.

W. F. H.

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Signatur *P. Prempeh*
Datum 27. Dez. 1924 192

The African World (London)

Nr. 1155

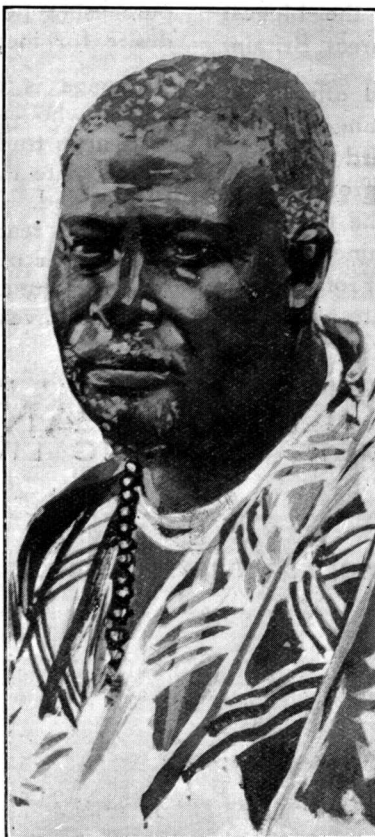
King Prempeh of Ashanti Goes Home

Reproduced from "The Graphic."

Prempeh, King of the Ashantis, is home after his long exile and many of us realise that Prempeh was less the capricious tyrant, delighting in massacre for its own sake, than the pedant observing in meticulous detail the religious ritual of an African nation, who, like the Dahomeyans, are innately proud and sensitive, and punctilious in devotion to ancient ceremony.

Prempeh was deported twenty-eight years ago, and the company of Ashantis in those languorous isles must at one time have neared a hundred. The folk of lesser political consequence were brought back first, and a few months ago the decision was taken that Prempeh himself and his chief fighting general and their families might also be taken to their homeland.

From the Seychelles the party were shipped first to Bombay, thence by Anchor liner, "Olympia," to Liverpool, and thence per Flder Dempster, "Abinsi," to the West Coast, where Prempeh, now a middle-aged man, will find the old Ashanti capital, Coomassie (or Kumasi, as the newly ordained revival of the ancient form has it), no longer a place of mystery, but a modern town whose main street is a hive of busy commerce. But though the extent and variety of the changes will surprise Prempeh, they will not find him wholly unprepared for them; for he has learned much at the Seychelles, and has become a man of progressive thought, anxious to keep abreast of the needs of the new day. Happier in these respects than some other African rulers whom political necessity has impelled us to exile, Prempeh has returned home while still in the prime of life, and while at the place of exile he was provided with a



KING PREMPEH, who has been permitted to return home after twenty-eight years' exile.

good, modern house, and, living in a good climate, he has enjoyed good health.

Not all the period of exile has been spent at the Seychelles. For the first year after his overthrow the Government kept him and his immediate following at the Gold Coast itself, at the old Dutch settlement of Elmina, not far from Ashanti; then, for four years in Sierra Leone. The remainder of the time was passed at the Seychelles. Over twenty years ago he was converted to Christianity, and he was a regular attendant at the little church.

With commendable judgment the Gold Coast Government detached a responsible officer to go to the Seychelles, take charge of the party there, accompany them to Liverpool and complete the long journey to Ashanti.

This gentleman, Mr. Angus Duncan Johnstone, a Deputy-Provincial Commissioner, evidently, if one may judge from the testimony of independent fellow-travellers and the absence of anything remotely suggesting hitch or friction, performed a by no means nominal task tactfully and well. Nor was his chief charge wanting in appreciation of the spirit in which both the higher authorities and their immediate agent dealt with the whole affair, as the following message, spoken by Prempeh on the point of leaving Liverpool, indicates:

"I wish to render my grateful thanks to his most gracious Majesty, King George, for the Royal clemency shown by him in allowing me to return to my native land. I pray that the King's reign will be long and prosperous over his Majesty's dominions. I also ask that the Royal clemency will always be bestowed upon me. I wish also to offer my most hearty thanks to his Majesty's Commissioner, Mr. Duncan Johnstone, for his kindness, protection and safeguarding of me during the voyage from the Seychelles to Liverpool, and to this date."

13819 0012 000

The Times (London)

~~No~~ 44406

EX-KING PREMPEH.

RESTORATION TO CHIEFTAINSHIP.

The Gold Coast Commercial Intelligence Bureau in London has received the following official telegram from Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti:—

"I informed Kumasi Chiefs on October 13 that Prempeh could be installed as Paramount Chief of the Kumasi Stool. The news was received with great joy and with expressions of deep gratitude and fervent loyalty to the King. An episode of Ashanti history covering 30 years thus ends in Prempeh resuming the rule of Kumasi tribes, but not of Ashanti, which now is administered through several paramount chiefs."

In 1896 Prempeh, who had become King of Ashanti in 1888, having refused to comply with certain demands of the British Government of the Gold Coast, was deposed and with a considerable retinue was lodged as a political prisoner in Elmina Castle. Subsequently he was exiled to the Seychelles, and in 1900 Ashanti was annexed to the British Dominions. In 1924 Prempeh was allowed to return to Ashanti as a private individual. During his long exile he had become a Christian, had learned to speak English fluently, and dressed in European clothes. He took up his residence in a well-appointed bungalow at Kumasi and interested himself in municipal affairs. He was present at the reception of the Prince of Wales at Kumasi last year. The respect shown to the ex-King by the Kumasi tribes was obvious—and it is to the chieftainship of those, his own tribes, that he has been restored.

13819 0013 000

The Manchester Guardian

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EX-KING OF ASHANTI.

Restoration to Tribal Chieftainship.

Reuter's Agency is informed that the following official telegram has been received in London from the Governor of the Gold Coast dated from Kumasi:

I informed the Kumasi Chiefs on October 13 that Prempeh could be installed as Paramount Chief of the Kumasi stool. The news was received with great joy and with expressions of deep gratitude and fervent loyalty to the King.

An episode of Ashanti history covering 30 years thus ends in Prempeh resuming the rule of Kumasi tribes but not of Ashanti, which now is administered through several Paramount Chiefs.

PREMPEH'S BANISHMENT.

Prempeh, the ex-King of Ashanti, after giving serious trouble by fostering the slave trade and attacking friendly tribes, challenged British authority in 1896 by resisting the establishment of a British Resident at Kumasi, the capital (known to older memories of our little wars as Coomassie). Kumasi was occupied unopposed by a British expedition under Sir Francis Scott, which then, however, had to march 150 miles back to the coast in the rainy season. Prince Henry of Battenberg, who had attached himself to the leader as secretary, died from fever. Prempeh was then banished to Sierra Leone. After further rebellion among the tribes in 1900 Prempeh was deported to the Seychelles, and was not allowed to return to his native country until the end of 1924. Until now he has been without ruling powers. It was after his final removal as king that Ashanti was for administrative purposes added to the Gold Coast colony. The Kumasi stool is the gold stool upon which the kings of Ashanti were crowned, and is in native eyes a symbol of great significance. When Prempeh was de-throned it was hidden, and was only rediscovered in 1921.

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Signatur *P. Prempeh*

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Gold Coast.

PREMPEH REINSTATED.

Ex-King Becomes Paramount Chief of Kumasi.

The news that the Gold Coast Government has permitted the election of ex-King Prempeh as Paramount Chief of the Kumasi Stool has been received with the greatest enthusiasm in Ashanti, where the monarchical principle is still strong. Since his repatriation in November, 1924, after twenty-eight years of exile in the Seychelles, the ex-King has been living at Kumasi as a private citizen, though he has taken an active part in Municipal and Church activities. The mass of the people loyally accepted the conditions on which their former ruler was permitted to return, but have made no secret of their continued attachment to him and his family.

The text of the official telegram from His Excellency the Governor is as follows:—

"I informed Kumasi Chiefs on October 13 that Prempeh could be installed as Paramount Chief of the Kumasi Stool. The news was received with great joy and with expressions of deep gratitude and fervent loyalty to the King. An episode of Ashanti history, covering thirty years, thus ends in Prempeh resuming the rule of Kumasi tribes, but not of Ashanti, which now is administered through several paramount chiefs."

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The African World (London)

Nr. 1250

EX-KING PREMPEH RESTORED.

The permission given to the Kumasi Chiefs to install the returned exile, Prince Prempeh, as Paramount Chief of Kumasi, ends an episode of thirty years' duration with equal credit to all the parties concerned in it. The British Government can now feel that the justice and clemency of its rule have established its authority in the hearts and minds of the people so firmly that no danger is incurred by allowing the representative of the line of monarchs which built up the Ashanti Empire to be interposed between the British representative and the people. To the Ashantis great praise is due for their acceptance of a situation which was probably galling at first to their racial pride, and also for the wisdom and loyalty with which they have co-operated with their rulers to take full advantage of the opportunity of development provided by the establishment of peace, and the introduction of transport giving that access to European trade the desire for which was the real cause of the long controversy between them and the British Government. It must, however, be admitted that the ex-king has, since his repatriation, shown qualities of self-control and statesmanship and a desire to co-operate with the Ruling Power, which are the best guarantees that there will be no rash attempt on his part to exploit memories dear to the national pride, but now quite impossible of realisation. Under his temperate guidance, Kumasi, now a modern township, may once more become the greatest centre of the peaceful energies of the tribes formerly known collectively as Ashanti. The restoration of Prempeh is an episode which will stand in the history of West Africa as a milestone of importance, and of great credit to Britain, and also to its distinguished official representatives on the spot.

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Nana Prempeh

Signatur

Datum 16. Mai 1931 19

The African World (London) No 1488

DEATH OF NANA PREMPEH.

The Last King of Ashanti.

KUMASI, ASHANTI, May 12.

Nana Prempeh, the Omanhene (head chief) of Kumasi, and at one time King of Ashanti, died here to-day.—Reuter.

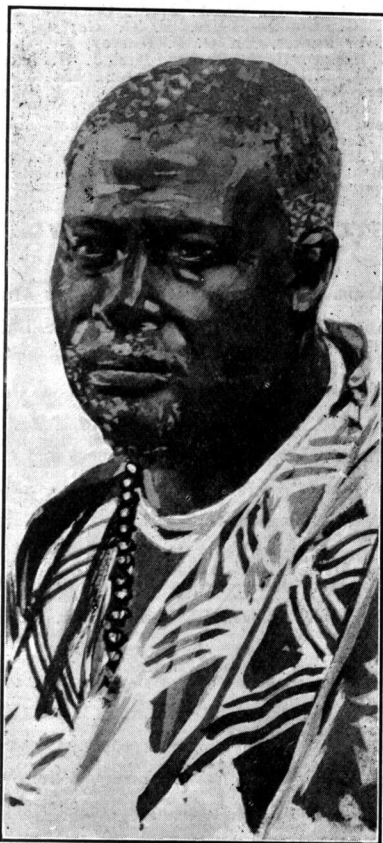
Prempeh was the last King of Ashanti. He was born in 1874—the year in which Sir Garnet Wolsey captured Kumasi (says the "Times"). Prempeh's brother and predecessor on the throne, Kwaka Dua II., died in 1884, and after a desolating civil war Prempeh was chosen king and was installed in 1888, taking the name of Kwaka Dua III. As far as he was able he appears to have tried to govern fairly, and to keep the peace with his British neighbours. Nevertheless, trouble between the Ashanti and the tribes of the Gold Coast broke out again.

At the end of 1889 a letter was sent from the Governor at Cape Coast to Prem-

having been received by the date given to Prempeh for the receipt of his reply, a punitive force under Sir Francis Scott was assembled at Cape Coast, and Kumasi was entered on January 17, 1895, after very little opposition. The Governor, Mr. W. E. Maxwell, arrived the next day, and at a palaver on the 20th Prempeh declared that he accepted the conditions imposed, and he made submission to the Governor in native fashion. Prempeh, however, protested his inability to fulfil certain of the conditions laid down, and in the end he, the Queen-Mother, his father, his two uncles, his brother, the two war chiefs, together with the tributary kings of Mampon, Ejisu, and Oginsu, were taken as prisoners to Elmina, and in 1900, after the siege and relief of Kumasi, Prempeh and his family, with certain of his chiefs, were sent to the Seychelles.

During his exile Prempeh became a convert to Christianity and joined the Church of England. In 1924, on account of the good behaviour of the Ashanti people in the intervening period, Prempeh was allowed to return with those of his party who survived, the condition being laid down that he was to go back to his country as a private individual. Prempeh and his party landed at Sekondi in November, 1924, and proceeded at once to Kumasi, being received with immense enthusiasm, for the Ashanti had retained throughout a feeling of loyalty to their former Sovereign.

The chiefs of Ashanti subscribed £6,000 for his maintenance, and the Government gave him land on which to build his house, and also ground for a farm, in addition to an allowance of £1,000 per annum. Prempeh settled down and took a great interest in the welfare of the people of Kumasi. He was a member of the Kumasi Public Health Board and a churchwarden. He dressed in European fashion, and greatly impressed the officials by his ability and sense. In 1926, with the approval of the Government, he was elected Kumasihene (head chief of the Kumasi people).



THE LATE NANA PREMPEH.

peh, asking him to refrain from further persecution of tribes that had seceded from him. To this Prempeh returned an answer to which the Governor took great exception. In July, 1890 an embassy was sent by Prempeh to Elmina to assure the Governor of the King's loyalty and desire for peace, but asking that all those Ashantis who had declared their independence might be restored to him with the British Government's help. This demand the Governor could not accede to, and in 1891 he suggested that the Ashantis should place themselves under British protection, a suggestion that Prempeh refused to entertain.

In 1893 British troops were moved up near the frontier. In February, 1894, Prempeh wrote to the Governor complaining that the British troops were molesting Ashanti

DEATH OF NANA PREMPEH.

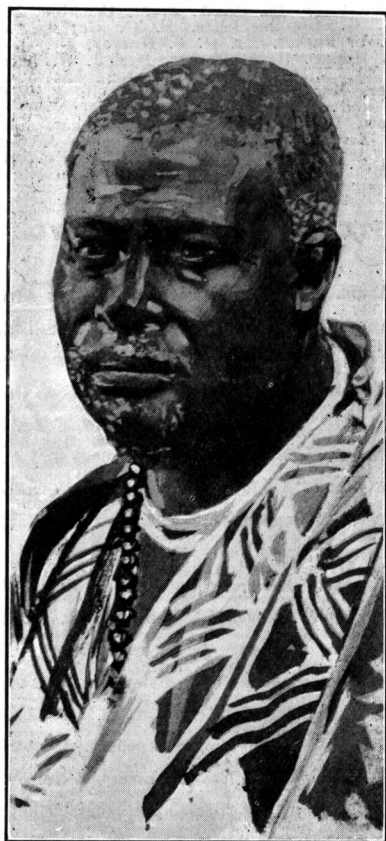
The Last King of Ashanti.

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In 1893 British troops were moved up near the frontier. In February, 1894, Prempeh wrote to the Governor complaining that the British troops were molesting Ashanti traders, and asking that they might be withdrawn. This was done, and a proposal made to Prempeh that he should receive a British Resident at Kumasi.

In September, 1894, an ultimatum was sent to Prempeh to receive a British Resident, on the grounds that he was allowing human sacrifices, placing hindrances in the way of trade, and failing to keep the road to Kumasi open. He was also charged with making war on tribes who were under British protection. No answer

having been received by the date given to Prempeh for the receipt of his reply, a punitive force under Sir Francis Scott was assembled at Cape Coast, and Kumasi was entered on January 17, 1895, after very little opposition. The Governor, Mr. W. E. Maxwell, arrived the next day, and at a palaver on the 20th Prempeh declared that he accepted the conditions imposed, and he made submission to the Governor in native fashion. Prempeh, however, protested his inability to fulfil certain of the conditions laid down, and in the end he, the Queen-Mother, his father, his two uncles, his brother, the two war chiefs, together with the tributary kings of Mampon, Ejisu, and Oginso, were taken as prisoners to Elmina, and in 1900, after the siege and relief of Kumasi, Prempeh and his family, with certain of his chiefs, were sent to the Seychelles.

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