

My Dad had been District Commissioner in Serowe for some years and when they wanted to transfer him the Old Chief Khama objected and said: "It has taken me two years to get to know and trust this man and now you want to move him elsewhere. He has been a great help and adviser to me so please leave him here".

When in Serowe I have several times seen the old chief come to my Dad's office, close the door and have one of his men posted outside so that they should not be interrupted. When they had finished their talk he would walk to the house, which was next door, have a quick cup of tea and be off. He was a wonderful old man and highly respected by all. All traders and private, private houses and stores were built on ground granted to the owners 'on loan'. I remember the Parrs had upset him over some trivial matter and he refused to grant them an extra twenty feet to build a tennis court. He kept them waiting twelve months.

When it came to the time of retirement for my Dad, the old man asked my Dad to remain On in Serowe and he would grant him ground and build a house for him. Unfortunately, my Dad was getting on and felt he wanted to go away down south to Keiskamma Hoek where he eventually died of cancer of the tongue.

My brother, Gerald, some years later was appointed District Commissioner of the same territory. The, however, the old Chief Khama had died and so had his son who left a minor as chief. Khama's son by his third wife, Simani Tshkedi, was appointed to act. More of him later as he created quite a storm some years later.

Anyway, my brother as I have mentioned was appointed D. Commissioner and here I must digress for a while and criticize the way the Imperial Authorities in London acted in appointing officials in the Colonies. They just sit in their offices in London like a lot of Paboos. They have never been out to the Colonies to study conditions and requirements. No such and such a Colony requires officials and they just send out one who is handy or some other reason.

As an example. My brother, Gerald, had two sons both whom wanted to follow in their grandfather's and father's footsteps and join the colonial service. Both were at Oxford. Instead of appointing them to a Colony where the family was well known and well respected, a Colony that they knew thoroughly and both were fluent in the language. No, the elder lad Young Gerald as he was called, was sent to what was Tanganyika and was killed as I have related when Resident at Dodo. The other lad Spencer was sent to Basutoland in which case it was not so bad for my Dad. He had been attached for some time before this transfer to the Bech. Protectorate.

Spencer, eventually, became District Commissioner in Basutoland, at Mokhotlong, the administrative centre of the North Eastern area. When the country received its independence he remained on as Secretary to the Prime Minister, Chief Leobold Jonathan. He accompanied the Chief to the United Nations, Formosa and other places. He has, however, now left the country and settled in Australia where he is in the employ of the Government and now given the job of dealing with the Aborigines who are now, after years of neglect, to be settled by the Government. These Aborigines have been neglected and yet that Government has the temerity (vermetelheid, roekeloosheid) to prescribe to us. They won't know what that means.

Well to get on with my story. I duly arrived at Palapye Road to be met by my Mother and Dad and George Smith, one of the traders, who, having a big car had offered to drive us the 37 miles instead of an all day trek by Cart and mules.

For the first week I just potted about visiting various traders, the acting Chief and others. The traders, as usual, offered us the usual boiled tea, black as thunder.

One of the traders Alfred Page-Wood, a very fine chap was very keen on my sister, Madge, but for some reason my mother was not very keen. When I arrived they both thought, this was a heaven sent chance to get together more often by inviting me out on short shooting outings. So on many days at closing time we went out a short distance

By car/