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The Gold Coast: Some Considerations of Its Structure, People, and Natural History:
Discussion

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Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 48, No. 5 (Nov., 1916), pp. 391-392

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1779612>

Accessed: 23-06-2016 23:09 UTC

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of Ashanti ; Captain C. H. Armitage, D.S.O., C.M.G., Chief Commissioner of the Northern Territories ; Mr. A. J. Philbrick, Acting Chief Commissioner, Ashanti ; Major B. Moutray-Read, Acting Chief Commissioner, Northern Territories ; and my colleague, Mr. B. K. N. Wylie, M.A., B.Sc.

Before the paper the PRESIDENT said : I will ask Mr. Kitson to read his paper on the Gold Coast. It is a subject on which he speaks with authority. He has been there on several visits, engaged on geological surveys under the Government. He has previously given us a paper upon Nigeria, and I am sure he will be able to tell us a great deal about an interesting colony.

(Mr. Kitson then read the paper printed above and a discussion followed.)

Mr. AMAURY TALBOT : I regret I have nothing of value to add to Mr. Kitson's valuable paper. My acquaintance with the Gold Coast is limited to two or three excursions on shore and coasting along it about a dozen times. Perhaps one of the most interesting statements in the lecture was that the whole coast is lifting up and the land encroaching on the sea. A little to the west the reverse is certainly the case, if a personal observation and the statements of witnesses can be relied on. Lower down, again, on the delta of the Cross River, the land is encroaching also. The fetish lake near Coomassie has its counterparts in many regions of the coast, especially among the Ekoi of the Cameroons and the Ibos of the Niger delta ; only in these latter waters fishing is usually taboo. Among the creeks of the Niger delta dwell genii which are reported to send forth flashes of light, while among Kalabari luminous faces are supposed to float over the water. I think the natives on the trade routes shown in the map were Hausas ; if so, that is another example of the advance of these people to the coast. There has been great progress in that way in recent days, and they are now coming down in hundreds. Mr. Kitson referred in a spirit of calm neutrality to the subject of the burning of bush. That is a very vexed question, and one that obtains greater prominence in Southern Nigeria than on the Gold Coast. Mr. Kitson's story of the little boy who was lost and found is in contrast to the belief of the peoples to the east of this region, who say that the big monkeys of the forest are very harmful and attack them with sticks and stones, whereas in the Gold Coast they are reckoned as friends. A story was told me by my Bornuese skinner that his little brother was lost when about two months old, and only recovered at the age of nine to ten years, having been brought up by an antelope during that interval. I should like to congratulate Mr. Kitson upon his excellent slides and lecture, and to say it would be of great advantage if we had many more men who, like him, would take an interest in both land and peoples of the West Coast. It seems to me of vital importance to this Empire that Britain should rule the tribes entrusted to her charge with justice and sympathy, and this cannot be done unless their ways of thought, beliefs, and customs are studied and considered.

Mr. ARTHUR HUDSON : As one who has spent some sixteen years in West Africa, the last four of which I spent as Attorney-General of the Gold Coast, I should like to thank the lecturer for the highly interesting evening he has given me. It would be rash, not to say inconsiderate, at this late hour to talk generally and at length about the Gold Coast, but I should like to confirm one or two things the lecturer told us about the great strides the Gold Coast has made during recent years. In 1897 the revenue of the Gold Coast was something under a quarter of a million ; ten years later, in 1907, it had risen to something like three-quarters of a million ; and just before the war, in 1914, the

revenue had already arrived at the considerable sum of something over one and a quarter million, and shipping exports and imports have progressed in the same extraordinary way. During my time in the Gold Coast we built about 34 miles of railway from Accra, to tap that wonderful cocoa industry, the great increase of which we have been told. I remember the Director of the railway asking me to come down to the station at Accra shortly after the railway was built, and that station was really like a sea of cocoa ; there were sacks of cocoa everywhere and the sheds were overflowing with it ; in fact, the Director told me he was bringing down something like 300 tons of cocoa a day. Unless one had seen cocoa at close quarters like that, one would hardly realize the enormous industry it has become. At one time, I believe, Trinidad was ahead with this industry, but now I am sure the Gold Coast is easily first of all our colonies as a cocoa-bearing colony. I have enjoyed what the lecturer has told us, and I have not the least doubt everybody else here has done the same.

The PRESIDENT : I will now return our thanks to the lecturer, Mr. Kitson, for his very interesting lecture. He has touched upon many matters of interest in the account he has given us of a country he knows well. I think two points in his lecture must have specially struck the meeting. The first of these is the very great breadth of the interests which Mr. Kitson showed. In these days we are too much accustomed to the specialist who thinks only of his own particular pursuit, whatever it may be. Mr. Kitson has shown how it is possible to have your own pursuit and yet give proof of wide interest in very various subjects : ethnology, antiquities, commerce, the future development of our colonies. The second point is the last remark in his paper, when he said that our Government and Colonial Office are recognizing the importance of science and the employment of scientific officials. That is a step in a direction in which we have lessons to learn from others ; I trust they have been learned and will not be forgotten after the war.

GEOGRAPHY IN THE UNITED STATES.

Geo. G. Chisholm.

A FEW years ago the *Journal* contained an article (vol. 35 (1910) pp. 419-425) by Mr. R. H. Whitbeck, of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, entitled "The Present Trend of Geography in the United States." The general drift of that article was to show from evidence derived from five sources that the trend at that time was away from schemes of study that had placed "too much emphasis upon the detailed study and classification of land-forms," and to lay more stress upon human response to these forms.

Since that date an important addition has been made to the periodical literature of American geography, and indeed of geography generally, in the publication of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, which appeared for the first four years of its existence under the editorship of Prof. Richard E. Dodge, of the Teachers' College, Columbia University, and in 1915 under that of Prof. Harlan H. Barrows, of the University of Chicago. That makes it worth while to examine these volumes with