

## 100,000 BASUTO GREET THE KING

From the four corners of Basutoland eighty thousand coloured subjects of the Crown converged on Maseru, the little capital of the country.

(14 added)

The Paramount Chief governs at Maseru, and to this little town of three thousand people the King and his family now drove with a picturesque escort<sup>of</sup> of Basuto horsemen. The journey from their homes, over rocky mountain territory, took many of the warriors as long as six weeks. Men of a martial race they raised a Pioneer Corps during the war and now came to receive the thanks of the King himself.

(\*)

The Basutos are not subjects of the Union of South Africa. Their country may eventually come into the Union; at present it is under the control of Whitehall. Basutoland is divided into seven districts, each with its own chief.

^

2 T/V

As the present Paramount Chief is a boy of twelve the Regent, Ma Nesebe was presented to the King. She was the senior wife of the boy's father, who died in nineteen forty. She is not his mother.

Mantsebo

His Majesty invested the Regent with the Order of the British Empire, after expressing his thanks for the service rendered to the Empire by her people in time of war. The King ~~then~~ presented <sup>Mr. Nesebo</sup> ~~Mentsebo~~ with a medallion to commemorate the Royal visit.

His Majesty then received the local chieftains. It is such men who administer the country under the Crown. Between them they control nearly three quarters of a million people. There is no native question in Basutoland; at the last census there were less than three thousand white men in the country. When the Royal visit was over the eighty thousand Basutos made a mass exit from the capital. They were dispersing to their farms to tell the story in every corner of the country of how they were received by the Great One from over the sea, the King of England.