

Prince of Wales visits Pygmies

A Royal Safari, Herbert Sayer, London, 1930 (He was later crowned Edward VII)

After lunch H.R.H. left by car with the Price de Ligne for Watsa, in Belgian territory, a hundred and thirty miles away. On an excellent road (but no better than the roads of Uganda) Watsa was reached before dinner-time. In Watsa supplies were purchased and next morning Watsa was deserted for Gombari. Gombari was arrived at in time for lunch with the District Commissioner. The latter had arranged a most interesting *ngoma* of the pigmies whereof H.R.H. took pictures.



Round the little dancers sat the little elders of the tribe. And as they sat they smoked, through long sticks, an evilly smelling, smouldering chopped grass. This burning mixture made the smokers cough and choke with a violence that was pitiful to see. It is said that no pigmy enjoys his pipe unless it takes him by the throat and half kills him. The choking and spluttering of these gnomes was the evidence of their complete and perfect enjoyment.



* EVIDENCE OF COMPLETE ENJOYMENT *