

From The General Press Cutting
Association, Ltd.

ATLANTIC HOUSE,
45-50, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C. 1.

TELEPHONE: HOLBORN 4815.

Cutting from the *Sketch*

Address of Publication _____

Issue dated _____

3 DEC. 1921

As the Secretary for Foreign Affairs is not provided with a residence by a grateful country, Mrs. Austen Chamberlain is "carrying on" at her own delightful flat in Morpeth Mansions, and has already started entertaining the members of

the Corps Diplomatique. She had a reception there the other afternoon, when, dressed in a becoming frock of lacquer-red embroidered in black and silver, and trimmed with dark fur, she had a large number of guests in her pretty drawing-room. This room deserves a word on its own account: it is different from any I have yet seen, as the floor is of a bright jade green. It is not enamel, as I first thought, but of ordinary paint varnished over on the plain wood boards. The effect is extraordinarily good, especially in conjunction with the lovely rugs, which were brought from Morocco, and the curtains of dark orange. The walls are of green of a paler shade, and make a good background for the Laszlo paintings of Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, and of their children, Joe and Diane, not forgetting the Burne-Jones at the end of the room.

Mrs. Chamberlain's mother, Mrs. Dundas, helped her daughter to do the honours, and among the guests I noticed were the Spanish Ambassador, who was saying "how-do-you-do" to Mrs. Brinton, who is off to Madeira for the winter; Mme. Merry del Val, wearing one of the new square-crowned hats, sitting on a sofa talking to Vicomte de la Panouse; the Belgian Ambassador, standing in front of the fire chatting with Lady Middleton, who had red coque feathers in her black hat; Baroness Moncheur, in that shade of beige which suits her extremely well; and Sir John Hanbury Williams and Don Pedro de Zulueta and his wife were others of the company.

In the dining-room, which, contrary to the usual order of thing in flats, is downstairs—where the portrait of Mr. Chamberlain in his robes as Chancellor of the Exchequer has the place of honour, there was a choice of China and Indian tea, and all sorts of good things were set out on table-cloths of orange linen. Here I saw Mrs. Rochfort Maguire having a little talk with the German Ambassador; and others admiring the presentation plate which belonged to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain were the Danish Minister's wife, Countess Ahlefeld-Laurvig, the Dowager Lady Airlie, with one of her usual picturesque black hats, and ever so many more.