

present stage of these works, and of the conditions leading up to them.

*Basin of the Great Lakes.*—A portion of the Nile has its rise in that great system of lakes of which the Albert and Victoria Nyanza are the chief. Lake Victoria is the direct supply of the Upper White Nile, the overflow of this lake being carried by the Victoria Nile and discharged into Lake Albert. The Semliki River carries the discharge of Lake Albert Edward also into Lake Albert, the outlet of which flows northward under the name of Bahr el Gebel, or Upper White Nile.

The drainage area of Lake Victoria is about 150,000 sq. miles, and the lake itself, 26,000 sq. miles, or a little smaller than Lake Superior. The level of this lake is 3,700 ft. above the sea. The Albert Nyanza has 32,000 sq. miles drainage area, and an elevation of 2,100 ft. above the sea.

A network of rivers runs all through the country, many of them as yet unexplored. Only during the last few years have engineers penetrated the district, and are now keeping systematic records to determine the rainfall, evaporation, and flow of the rivers. The evaporation of the water under the tropical sun reaches a very high figure.

*The Sudd Region.*—Bahr el Gebel extends from 2° N. to 9° 30' N., a distance of 525 miles, but the actual length of the river is much greater, owing to bends. In the northern half of this river is the great swamp region covering an area of probably 20,000 sq. miles, through which the river wanders in a series of channels and lagoons, in places losing its identity owing to the growth of vegetation called "Sudd," (an Arabic word meaning dam or obstruction). In this great area the volume of water suffers a further loss, the amount of which is now being definitely determined by a series of gaugings and measurement of river discharges. The effect of the numerous channels and variations in season and rainfall is, however, so complicated that only by a careful analysis of observation extending over a series of years can a definite conclusion be arrived at.

The growth of vegetation over this swamp region consists mainly of the papyrus reed, which grows in great luxuriance. The roots form a tangled mass with the decaying tops that have fallen upon them, and frequently float upon the water in large fields, the mat being strong enough to bear considerable weight. Over the swamp area the water is from two to six feet deep, with a layer of very soft mud on the bottom, into which the roots reach. The stems of the papyrus are from 10 to 18 feet in height, smooth and tapering, of triangular section with rounded corners, and are surmounted by a plume of fine green sprays. The fibre of the stems would have a value for fuel or paper-making, if means could be