

# UGANDA

growth of population to lower the standard of living. It is interesting to note that the report also maintains that superstition and a preference for leisure over money will have to be reduced. Mechanization and modernization of the agriculture are proposed. Through this plan the whole economy will benefit and, depending upon its management, Uganda's economic possibilities will either improve or wane.

## ECONOMY MODIFIED

As Uganda's economy was modernized and developed, so her political institutions were adopted to become more efficient and more suitable to self-government in the modern world. Buganda led in the process of westernization which was exemplified in regular constitutional and administrative reforms.

The original native institutions were adapted, altered and molded to a common form so that the power of the central government could be diffused throughout the organized body.

Native administration was characterized by a unitary form of organization with the central power residing in the Kabaka or king and his council of Saza (or county chiefs). Below this body were the Gombolola (or sub-county councils), composed of chiefs from these areas and the local or parish councils composed of the local chief. Each kingdom, then, was governed by an autocratic hierarchy of chiefs which governed its respective area.

It was this type of organization that the British Protectorate Government met on its assumption of power. According to D. A. Low in *The Times* of London, Oct. 9, 1962, it was fortunate that this type of administration was in existence for it made the job of estab-

## SCOPE BROADENED

lishing self-government an easier one. As local government was almost in existence the active of-

ficials would have had a rudimentary idea of governing and administering. It was for the British to broaden the scope of this set-up, introduce democratic processes, and unite the bodies into a centralized, smoothly functioning organization.

The transition has been a gradual one. First was the absolute control of the colony by the British Protectorate Government working through the local district councils and with the often reluctant co-operation of the Kingdom Kabakas. Gradually more and more power was shifted from the British shoulders onto those of the African governing bodies. In 1921 a legislative council was established and remained all white until 1945. Since then more Africans have been admitted until the body is now completely African.

## FACTIONS EMERGE

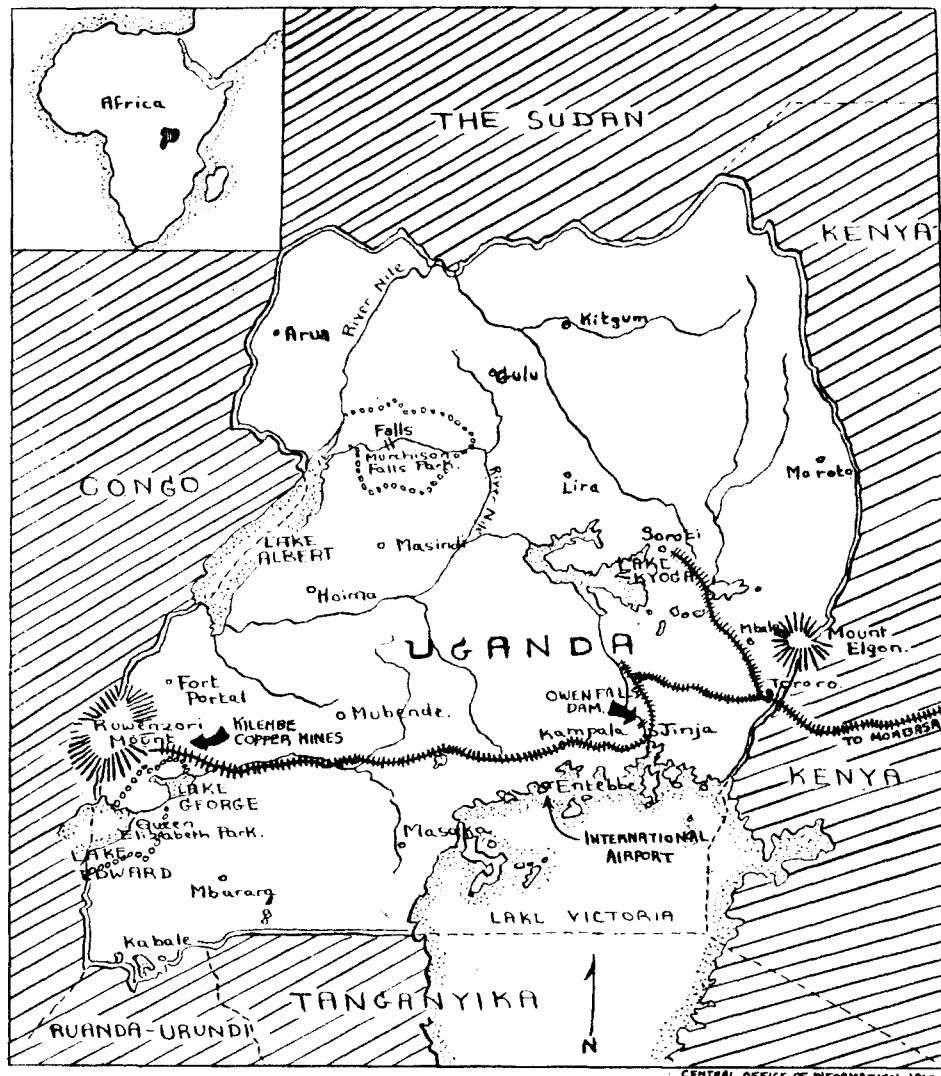
Parties and factions have emerged and have aided the increase of participation by the peasant, who before was tied to his chief by traditional tribal obligations. Finally, a coalition was organized earlier this year between the majority party and the leaders of Buganda, and on this basis a government was formed that was ready to assume the responsibilities of self-government.

The problems encountered by the British were numerous. The biggest one was to weld a single nation from four kingdoms composed of 28 tribes who jealously guarded their traditions and rights. The kingdoms themselves were afraid of losing their status as accorded to them by the agreement with the British Crown of 1900. Not only had the active African population to be forged into a single unit but consideration had to be made for the extensive Asian population, the greatest part of which were and are Indians.

Patience and determination won through. The Protectorate Government moved ahead, sometimes inauspiciously, sometimes forcibly but always with hope and courage. The principles of democratic self-government have been achieved. Traditional rights of the kingdoms and their rulers have been guaranteed, local councils have been established, everywhere public participation in politics has increased and the franchise has been broadened.

Trouble has not been absent from this process. Often it seemed to the natives that the British were standing still. Cries of protest arose. Britain's well-meant help was often misconstrued as meddling and interference. Family rivalries in the kingdoms have caused much discontent.

However, the trouble in Uganda was kept to a minimum unlike that in Kenya. Basically, the reason for this was that Uganda was not a plantation state with the land controlled by Europeans. The over-abundance of white settlers was kept at a minimum in Uganda because of poor communications and poor climate relative to that of Kenya. Also, Britain wanted to



avoid the same trouble previously encountered in the Gold Coast and therefore imposed the restriction of the sale of land to Africans only. With land in Kenya relatively easy to obtain the majority of settlers went there.

Of course, concomitant with the political and economic are the advances made in the social services, health welfare and education. Education particularly has attained phenomenal importance in Uganda. Everyone wants it.

As well as primary and secondary schools there are also technical schools, teacher training colleges and a university college at Makenye. Research in medicine, English and agriculture are proceeding at a fantastic rate for a new country. An East African Literature Bureau has been established to study and record the five major languages in Uganda.

Culturally, Uganda has a broad background stemming from its diversified racial heritage. The Protectorate Government successfully

## CULTURE STIMULATED

stimulated the arts with the results that native music and artistic tradition have been continued. Together with the European and Asiatic cultural elements these groups have provided Uganda with a rich and colorful culture.

Uganda, the new nation, must look to the future. The basis for success has been laid. Depending upon her administration to handle the legacy left them by the British and depending upon how well they have learned the art of government will rest the future of Uganda. It is an optimistic one.

Mr. Obote, the prime minister, stated in his Independence Day letter: "we are reliant, to some

extent, on the continued advice and assistance of our friends and we welcome foreign investment. To foreign investors my government offers stability and a vast and lucrative scope for investment . . . We will strive to contribute to the maintenance of world peace and to uphold the general principles and spirit of the United Nations."

Brave words, encouraging words from this young nation. She is ready, then, to take her place in the world community. With help and assistance she can be of value not only to other African nations but also to the rest of the world as a heartening example of patience, determination, and co-operation directed towards one goal.

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