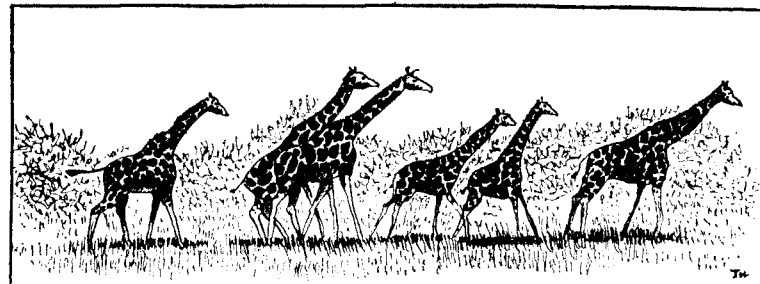


gateway features



In keeping with feature's international theme, this article turns to the newly independent African country of Uganda. This nation serves as an excellent example of the possibility and actuality of a peaceful transition of a country from a colony to a nation. C.A.

AN INDEPENDENT NATION

"To show the way"—This supreme mission of the modern Commonwealth was and still is the guiding principle for Britain in helping her colonies on their road to self-government. The overall picture portrays nothing but credit for the British Government. It is true that mistakes have been made and exceptions do exist but in the general view Great Britain deserves praise for her efforts, her struggles on behalf of her colonies.

Oct. 9, 1962 was a day of "joy both for Britain and Uganda" stated Mr. Obote, the Ugandan Prime Minister. This was the long-sought after day for the small African nation — Independence Day — achieved through the combined efforts of the Ugandan people and the British Protectorate Government. Uganda had gained her place in the British Commonwealth and her position in the world community of nations. She serves as another example of the numerous colonies guided and aided by Britain to achieve independence.

suitable governmental framework.

The two, separated by the Nile, were the clan and village societies of the north and east and the large kingdom type of society of the west and south. The latter saw the emergence of two powerful and enterprising giants—Bunyoro-Kitara and second its challenger Buganda which emerged as a power in the nineteenth century.

Before the British entered Buganda and the surrounding kingdoms the Arabs had been there and exploited the territory for its nefarious slave trade. Traders from the Sudan and Zanzibar pushed into the interior of Africa devastating villages and buying and selling the population. After the British had entered Buganda the Arabs posed a threat to the safety and stability of the new colony. However, British pressure on the Sultan of Zanzibar stopped the slave trade and forced the Arabs to retreat beyond the borders of present day Uganda.

Britain's interest was first

that Uganda's potential could not be developed without some means of transportation to the coast. Consequently in 1895 the British allotted a sum of money for the construction of a railway from Mombasa to the shores of Lake Victoria, a distance of 500 miles. A relation of the construction of the railways read like a page from a Rider Haggard adventure story. Over such obstacles as disease, starvation, privation, rock slides, and man-eating lions the bravery and stubbornness of the engineers and workers rose.

With the construction of the railway it was possible to start developing an economy. The first attempts were made with cotton and then spread to other crops.

STEPS QUICKENED

Hesitant steps were made in the field of heavy industry and were quickened to a steady march to progress in 1954 with the completion of the magnificent Owen Falls Dam.

The basis of Uganda's present economy is agriculture which supplies 60 per cent of the domestic product and 90 per cent of her exports. Cotton and coffee are the most important of the cash crops. Their development was inaugurated with the completion of the railway in 1903. American cotton, the largest export of Uganda, was found to be especially suited to her conditions. The industry flourished and in 1960 Uganda's cotton exports valued at 14,000,000 pounds.

Even though cotton was the most important cash crop, it was decided after World War I to diversify the economy to prevent dependence upon one product. Coffee, sugar, tobacco, tea, and groundnuts as well as other not so successful crops were introduced. Coffee replaced cotton as the major cash crop and export product. In 1960 the export revenue stood at 16,000,000 pounds.

Research in agriculture, including livestock and fishing, has been an important factor in the development of this industry. Amazing advances have been made against the tsetse fly, rabies, plant diseases and pests. Co-operation between the Protectorate Government and British research bodies

UGANDA BLESSED

has been commendable. The university college at Makeve, in co-operation with London University, has done much of the work in this field.

Education has proceeded apace. It was realized that education of the people in modern farm methods would be the only way to maximize agricultural production. Mechanization of agriculture has been an important facet of the educational program.

As for the future of Uganda regarding agriculture, the Hon. M. M. Ngobi, Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives in Uganda stated recently that "Uganda is, generally, blessed with good soil, a good climate, and with the will to work it,

should have one of the brightest futures of any country in Africa."

Primary industry in Uganda has been slow to develop in relation to

RICH RESOURCES

agriculture but it has been helped by the efforts of the government owned Uganda Development Corporation and the British Colonial Development Corporation as well as other assorted organizations.

Prior to the latest phase of industrial development Sir Andrew Cohen, then the Governor of Uganda, very simply stated in 1952: "We have rich natural resources which are now beginning to be developed . . . we have people who are anxious for progress . . . Above all, we have good will and a long and priceless tradition of sympathy and understanding between the races . . . I am convinced that there is no limit to the progress this country can make, no limit to the wealth, well-being and happiness which can be created."

The problems were how to develop the resources that exist in abundance and how to change a basically agricultural nation to an industrially aware nation. The people had to be made ready. Not only that but power resources had

KENYA SUPPLIED

to be developed, capital was needed and communications and transportation had to be improved and extended.

Lacking in coal and oil, Uganda makes up for this deficiency by having rich potential for water power which was realized to some extent in the construction of the Owen Falls Dam. The dam is the largest in East Africa, and supplies Kenya with power through one of the longest transmission lines in the world. With this power available industry could be and is being developed.

Copper, the major mineral export of Uganda, is found in the Ruwenzori Range and at Mt. Elgon. In 1953 the Uganda Development Corporation, the British Colonial Development Corporation and a Canadian mining concern started to extract the ore. A smelter was established at Jinja at the same time and Uganda's copper production was under way.

Uganda's economic future looks reasonably good according to the report from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It proposes a five year plan to raise agricultural production and recommends an expenditure of £52 million to be raised by the Uganda government and its agencies. The report states that "Uganda is

DECISIVE MOMENT

gaining self-government and independence at a decisive moment in its economic history," and that the people need to choose either to increase production or allow the increasing

Uganda is a fairy tale. You climb up a railway instead of a beanstalk and at the end there is a wonderful new world. The scenery is different, the vegetation is different, the climate is different and, most of all, the people are different from any elsewhere to be seen in the whole range of Africa.

Winston Churchill
My African Journey (1908)



As President Nkrumah of Ghana stated on Oct. 4, 1961: (he recognized) "the sincere determination of the British Government to find as quickly as possible a solution to the colonial problem" and he advised the peoples of the remaining British colonies "to rely on the declared intention and good faith of the British government and to press their case for independence by constitutional means." Possibly the greatest compliment, however, was paid by Nigeria's Prime Minister Sir Akubakar Tafawa Balewa, when he said that Nigeria had known the British administrators "first as masters, then as leaders, finally as partners but always as friends."

As part of the former British Empire and now of the Commonwealth, Uganda's recent history has been connected and interwoven with this tradition.

However, prior to Britain's relatively recent acquisition of Uganda as a protectorate, her history stretches back into the dim and misty past when the great migrations marched their way across the earth populating the various regions. Uganda, settled by some southward moving nomads, developed two separate types of societies in about 400 A.D. that existed to the present and posed problems for the evolution of a

aroused in Uganda by the adventures of John Speke and James Grant. They went into East Africa to find the source of the Nile. In 1862 they were successful in solving this mystery that had puzzled explorers for centuries.

It was not, however, until 13 years later that British interest was excited to a suitable pitch. In 1875 the American explorer and newsman, H. M. Stanley, in his paper, the Daily Telegraph, implored for missionaries to be sent to Buganda. He was extremely impressed by the beauty and apparent potential of the country. Missionaries came forthwith; first the English Christian Missionary Society and later the French Roman Catholic White Fathers.

From the "scramble for Africa" of the 1890's emerged the British and German spheres of influence in East Africa and the resultant British Protectorate of Uganda in 1894. Prior to 1890 the region had been administered by the Imperial British East Africa Company in the person of Captain F. Huggard. This period was beset by many problems including religious and tribal factionalism, the Arab threat from the north and the threat of civil war. However, the British managed to subdue the various elements and proceeded to administer their territory as best they could.

It was realized from the start