

## *Rwanda, Land of a Thousand Hills*

**R**WANDA, situated in the heart of Africa, is widely known as “the land of a thousand hills”. It is bounded on the west by the Congo, on the north by Uganda, on the east by Tanzania, and on the south by Burundi. The country borders picturesque Lake Kivu, whose shores are followed by a scenic route that stretches the whole way along the waterfront. A number of lakes not far from the national boundary — Tanganyika, Edward, Albert and Victoria — make this one of the loveliest regions in the world. Among Rwanda’s mountains are huge parks and forests, majestic volcanoes and beautiful lakes.

Most of Rwanda consists of a high, undulating plateau that rises slowly from east to west. In the centre of the country, a region of delicately-contoured uplands, the average altitude is 5,500 feet. In the east, where the grassy hills are strewn with small marshy lakes, is Kogera National Park.

The area of Rwanda is 10,169 square miles — 377 times smaller than that of Canada. With a population of about 3,000,000, however, it is a very densely-populated land, with an average of 295 persons a square mile, the highest concentration of population in any African state south of the Sahara.

By the thirteenth century, the Bahutu, a nation of cultivators, inhabited what is now Rwanda. At the beginning of the fifteenth century, cattle farmers from the north infiltrated the country and, having gained political ascendancy, established the Tutsi dynasty, which was headed by the Mwami, or king. A major part of the land, with its herds, was owned by Tutsi families. The Bahutu, or Hutu, were obliged to pay these families dues of many sorts, in kind or in labour. The first European to visit Rwanda was Count Von Goetzen, a German, who arrived in 1894. Rwanda was a German protectorate from 1899 to 1916, when it was occupied by Belgian troops from the Congo. After the end of the First World War, Rwanda and Burundi were placed under Belgian trusteeship, which terminated with their independence in 1962.

### **Canada and Rwanda**

Since Rwanda achieved its independence on July 1, 1962, its relations with Canada have been expanding in many areas. This continuing development was underlined on July 8, 1967, when Mr. J. C. G. Brown, the Canadian Ambassador to the Congo (Kinshasa), presented his credentials to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Mr. Grégoire Kayibanda. As early as August 1965, Rwanda had preceded Canada in that direction by accrediting to Ottawa its Ambassador resident in Washington.

Any discussion of relations between Canada and Rwanda must necessarily emphasize the high degree of co-operation achieved by the two countries in the field of training, with the creation of the National University of Rwanda. It was under the guidance of a Canadian, the Reverend Georges-Henri