

# £370,000 IN GRANTS FOR NEW COLLEGE

*Mr. Griffiths's disclosure*

## PROVIDING TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR ALL RACES IN EAST AFRICA

**MR. JAMES GRIFFITHS**, Secretary of State for the Colonies, announced during a civic luncheon in Nairobi yesterday that the British Government had agreed to contribute from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund the sum of £150,000 towards the capital cost of the proposed new technical college in Nairobi.

The Uganda Government, he disclosed, had undertaken to give £100,000 towards the capital cost, while the Kenya Government, apart from providing "an admirable five-acre site in the heart of the city," had set aside £120,000 towards the cost of the college.

Mr. Griffiths said more money would be needed during the next few years if the expanding needs of the college were to be met. He was delighted to know that the college would be open to all races and that there was provision for the education of women in the domestic arts as well as in other subjects.

The luncheon was held in the City Hall, where the Colonial Secretary, who was accompanied by Mrs. Griffiths, was the guest of the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor N. F. Harris and Dr. Mary Harris, and members and senior officials of the City Council.

After the Loyal Toast had been honoured, the Mayor proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths, who he said, they were very glad to see in Nairobi.

"We have always felt that the more we see of our friends from England, who visit us to learn our rather peculiar ways the better we shall like it," the Mayor commented.

Technical education was a subject which had caused a considerable amount of thought in the past few years. They welcomed the presence of Mr. G. P. Willoughby, who was the chairman of the committee which had set the pattern of technical education in East Africa, and Alderman G. A. Tyson, one of the senior members of the City Council, who had missed no opportunity of furthering the claims of technical education on the finances of the country.

### Nairobi's progress

Mr. Griffiths said he was deeply honoured to be the first Secretary of State for the Colonies to visit Nairobi since the grant of the Royal Charter. Local government was the foundation of political advancement, and Nairobi was well known for efficient, stable and progressive municipal government and for co-operation between all sections of the community.

"I congratulate you, Mr. Mayor, and the citizens of Nairobi upon the progress which you have made during the past 50 years, and I would like to give you my best wishes for your happiness and prosperity in the future.

He wanted to speak on a subject which was vital to that future, a subject which he knew had been receiving much thought in Nairobi and indeed throughout Kenya and East Africa—technical education. He could assure them that he and his advisers in the Colonial Office had also been giving it much thought.

Possibly, they would agree with him when he said that not enough attention had been paid in the past to technical education. That was not a criticism of Kenya, which had done more than most territories in this field, it was a comment and he

thought, a fair comment, on the past educational policy in all African colonial territories.

Throughout Africa, Governments and peoples were now striving to make good that deficiency; they were receiving the fullest possible support from His Majesty's Government and he could assure them they would continue to do so.

He did not want to imply by that that they intended to encourage technical education at the expense of academic education. That would be wrong, as the aim must be towards a balanced system, in which academic and technical education would both be adequately developed.

"You are engaged in developing general education for Europeans and Asians, and I am glad to know you are spending large sums of money on this. In the field of education for Africans you have recently taken a great step forward through the approval by Legislative Council of the far-reaching proposals in the Beecher Report for extending primary and secondary schools for Africans."

Makerere College, as the apex of this educational system of the academic and scientific side, was also to be extended. His Majesty's Government was proud to be contributing largely to the cost of this extension. He was told Kenya students were acquiring themselves well at Makerere.

### 'Deeply impressed'

His tour of East Africa had unfortunately been short, but he had been able to see something of the countries and to meet many people of all races and all sections of the community.

He had been deeply impressed by what he had seen and heard, but nothing had impressed him more than the great desire of the African people he had met—both in the towns and the more remote country districts—for more education. He had been especially glad to find that in Kenya and Uganda alike the demand was not only for more academic education but also for more technical training.

(Cont. on page 3, cols. 3, 4, and 5)

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