

25/OCT/1952

# ROYAL COLLEGE FIRST COURSES IN JANUARY

*Main building to be complete in 1955*

THE Governing Council of the Royal Technical College of East Africa, now being built in Nairobi, hopes to start the college's first courses—in mechanical engineering—in accommodation provided by the Railway Administration in January. This information is given in a progress report on the college, the first stage of which, estimated to cost £410,000, was started in April.

The foundations were completed on schedule last month. The P.W.D. had expected to have the plans of the superstructure ready for contract in August, but unavoidable delays have put this back until early next year. It is hoped to have the main building completed in 1955.

In addition to this building, which adjoins the National Theatre, workshops for the college are to be built, between the Norfolk Hotel and the huts now occupied by the Lands Department. Hostels for the College will be built on the lower slopes of Hospital Hill, where one site is to be acquired compulsorily at an estimated cost of £11,000.

It is hoped to start courses at the beginning of 1955, but it is possible that special arrangements will allow a few courses to be started in the building in 1954. In the meantime, mechanical engineering courses are being arranged with the Railway Administration.

## 54-acre site

The college will grow on a total of some 54 acres in the heart of Nairobi. The area covered by the college will include the 32 acres between Hospital Hill and Government Road now largely occupied by the Services Sports Ground.

While providing for a wide range of technical instruction and catering for the needs of all races, the college is essentially for instruction and training above the artisan level.

It has not yet been possible to make a detailed assessment of the demand for higher technical education in East Africa, but this will be one of the first tasks of the Principal, whom it is intended to appoint as soon as possible.

## Adjustments

The report emphasises that the value of the college depends on the degree of success which is attained in adjusting the curriculum and the courses to the practical needs of industry, commerce and government.

The need for liaison between employers and the Board of

Studies of the College recognised.

Also recognised is the need to give greater emphasis to science and technical subjects in the Colony's secondary schools in order to feed the college. Eventually this question may, as in England, lead to the founding of separate schools, but at present it is likely that certain forms in the schools will have a bias towards these subjects.

The college is planned to have an ultimate capacity of 1,500 full-time and 1,000 part-time students. The courses envisaged will cover a wide field, ranging from preparation for graduateship examinations of the Institute of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering to teacher-training, domestic science, preparation for City and Guilds technical examinations and many specialised classes.

## Equal shares

In addition, it is planned to hold public lectures and courses for adults on subjects of general public interest, including community development.

Art courses for people with a non-vocational interest will also be provided.

This year's recurrent expenditure on the College will be £3,700. Uganda and Tanganyika have been asked to bear an equal share of the recurrent expenditure until the College opens.

The legislatures of all three territories have now agreed that the college will be added to the schedule of the High Commission, which has agreed in principle that once the college is open the expenditure should be met by equal contributions towards maintenance and renewals and in part by a per capita payment in proportion to the number of students attending from each territory.