

# TECHNICAL INSTITUTE SITE 'EMINENTLY SUITABLE'

## Details of the Harlow Report

**D**RAWING-BOARD plans for East Africa's Technical Institute to be sited in Nairobi, became an immediate bricks-and-mortar problem after the Colonial Secretary, at a Civic lunch in Nairobi, announced the £370,000 grant towards the completion of the Institute.

According to Mr. G. P. Willoughby, chairman of the Interim Governing Council of the Technical College, "we could not have got started without that grant."

Full details of the College have been released in a joint interview by the Member for Education, Mr. E. A. Vasey, and Mr. Willoughby.

At the same time, the Harlow Report, on whose recommendations the Institute will be based, was released. The report was prepared by Dr. F. J. Harlow, Assistant Educational Adviser for Technical Education to the Colonial Secretary, at the request of the Governor of Kenya, Sir Philip Mitchell.

### Choice of Nairobi

Dr. Harlow sees the future College as "a contiguous group of buildings to include an assembly hall, library, administrative quarters, refectory, gymnasium, staff and students' common-rooms, classrooms, lecture-rooms, laboratories for science and engineering studies, rooms for studies in commerce, arts, studios for arts and crafts, and accommodation for domestic staff, offices, sanitary accommodation, locker and cloakrooms."

With these there should be a number of hostels with adjacent recreational facilities, playing fields and staff housing.

The chosen sites, ranging from the corner of Government Road and Kingsway to a point almost opposite the Synagogue, have been described as "eminently suitable" by Dr. Harlow, and he comments: "The decision of the Kenya Government to reserve these valuable sites for the College may be taken as a measure of the importance to Kenya and to East Africa generally, which is attached to the development of technical education."

He points out that the Governments of Tanganyika, Zanzibar and Uganda, have agreed that within the next five to ten years, students requiring advanced technical education should be sent to Nairobi.

Reasons given for the choice of Nairobi as the site for the College were that the major works and training establishments of the railways are concentrated in Nairobi, that the technical training centre of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is nearby, and that a number of industrial firms engaged in manufacture, processing and light engineering industries are already established in Nairobi and others are expected to develop rapidly. "Moreover, as a commercial centre, it seems likely that Nairobi will be unrivalled for some years to come."

### Leadership

Finally, "its climate is pleasant and it is accessible from other important centres of population by road, rail and air."

The Report stresses the importance of not regarding technical and commercial education as narrowly vocational in character, particularly in the advanced grades. Dr. Harlow advises: "Personnel who are destined to occupy positions of responsibility in industry or commerce, whether at professional or sub-professional level, need to have vision and to be educated on liberal as well as vocational lines.

"Human qualities of leadership are also needed, by an

the Technical College within the area of Nairobi to be set apart for cultural activities has, therefore, very considerable advantages of mutual value to the students and to the community generally."

To operate effectively, the Report goes on, there will have to be an efficient supporting educational system at school level. Educational developments in the territories concerned will be a valuable asset.

### Inter-racial

The Report comments: "Modifications in the education given in the schools are needed to prepare pupils for these new opportunities. The education given must be closely related to practical experience. In African communities, there are not the same opportunities for boys and girls to gain experience in their natural environment as is the case in more highly developed countries. It is of special importance, therefore, that as much experience of a practical nature as possible should be provided in African schools and the education given related to it. Only by this means can adequate development of the individual be achieved and any barrier upon the life."

Of the inter-racial aspect of the College, the Report states: "The inter-racial character of the proposed College is welcomed on every hand. There can be no question that the bringing together in the one institution of students of different races and from different walks of life will be a potent factor in producing greater human understanding and breadth of outlook to the benefit of the whole community. When young people work, study and play together under sound guidance and leadership, nothing but good can result."

The courses at the College, according to Mr. Willoughby, will range from professional, through sub-professional to trades and apprenticeship courses worked in conjunction with the major industrial and commercial concerns.

When the first phase of the College will be completed is not yet known, but when finished, it will extend from Government Road to Sailer Street.

### 2,500 students

The immediate idea is to have a nucleus of classrooms operating, while the rest of the project is being completed. This first phase, when complete, will include a refectory for the students and an assembly hall, which might be used as a gymnasium until the proposed gymnasium is completed.

Hostels to house students will be built in the vicinity of the existing Police Mess.

Ultimately, the College is expected to cater for 1,500 full-time and 1,000 part-time students from all over East Africa.

The courses, however, will not all be technical. There is planned a series of courses in domestic science for full-time students, as well as arts and crafts courses.

"We are not looking for University status," says Mr. Willoughby, "but we will take people to every bit as high a level."

The College will operate under a Governing Council, consisting of persons chosen for their specialist knowledge, and this body will select personnel and recruit staff, mainly