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British Start Huge Power Plant on the Nile; Dams Will Rise at Outlet of Lake Victoria

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LONDON, July 18—Preliminary work has begun for dams and power stations in Uganda, Central Africa, that would produce the equivalent of nearly two-thirds of the electricity consumption in Britain.

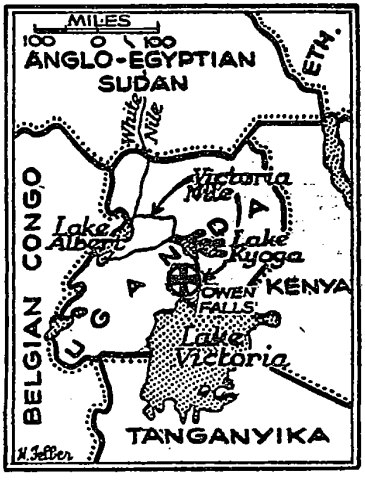
The engineers' report on the project at Owen Falls has been published by the Uganda Government, which is undertaking the development with the encouragement and counsel of the British Colonial Office.

Bids for the main generating units, which will be installed at the outlet of Lake Victoria in Uganda, have been received and orders will be placed soon. The first phase of the development is scheduled to be completed in 1953.

The British Ambassador in Cairo has been instructed to seek the Egyptian Government's approval of further development of central Africa's water power. Negotiations have not been possible because of the disturbed relations between the two countries, caused by the Palestine war and the dispute over the British occupation of the Suez Canal zone.

Under the 1928 Nile Waters Agreement Britain is obliged to obtain the consent of Egypt for any change in the "regime" of the Nile, upon whose waters Egypt is dependent for irrigation.

Lake Victoria, surrounded by the British colonial territories of Uganda, Kenya and Tanganyika, is approximately the size of Ireland. Its water is discharged down the Victoria Nile through Lake Kyoga to Lake Albert, where the White Nile emerges to join the Blue Nile at Khartoum.



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Britain is building Nile dams at Owen Falls (cross).

Between the lakes, the water falls 1,700 feet in 260 miles. On that stretch, engineers say, 22,000,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity might be produced annually. In 1945, about 38,000,000,000 kilowatt hours were generated in the United Kingdom.

The initial project, now under way, calls for the erection of dams on the eastern and western channels of the Victoria Nile, one 650 feet long and the other 590 feet long, and the installation of four generating units with a maximum output of 524,000,000 kilowatt hours.

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