

"THE AFRICAN QUEEN"

An interesting dispute between Romulus Films, Ltd., the producers of the film "The African Queen", and the Administration has been concluded. During the shooting of the film in Uganda, stomach trouble became so widespread amongst the film operatives that the shooting of the film had to be suspended for upwards of ten days. It will give some indication of the cost of film production when, in respect of these ten days' lay-off the company claimed to be in the red to the extent of almost £25,000.

An amount of over £4,000 was due to the Administration in respect of various services, including the conversion of one of its motor boats to become "The African Queen", the hire of certain ships and marine and catering facilities. Without these services and the facilities provided by the Administration the film could not have been made. The film company declined to pay the Administration this amount and counter-claimed for £25,000. They alleged that the outbreak of stomach trouble, or diarrhoea, was caused by impure water supplied to their staff by the Administration. The Administration denied liability and in so doing pointed out that it is not unusual for newcomers to the tropics to suffer from stomach trouble if they consume iced drinks and lie under fans after working in torrid equatorial conditions. This tendency is exacerbated where, as in the present case, long hours are worked.

In the event, neither party was willing to give way and the Administration therefore brought an action in the United Kingdom claiming the amount due. Judgment was given for this amount but the company were granted leave to counter-claim for the full amount of their loss. On the Administration remaining adamant in refusing any compromise the company eventually gave way, withdrew their counter-claim for £25,000 and paid the amount of the Administration's judgment and costs.