

35 FILMS

Colonial Office unit leaves soon

having covered thousands of miles in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and completed more than 50 reels of film, the Colonial Film Unit (C.F.U.) will cease its activities at the end of this month.

It has been at work for just a year.

The Unit's senior director, Mr. Geoffrey Innes, told the *East African Standard* that during the year the Unit, consisting of four 16-mm. and one 35-mm. mobile units, has taken 35 films on various subjects, including agriculture, hygiene and citizenship.

Excited the Masai

One of their most well-known and popular films was one called "Eunoto", which dealt with the initiation ceremonies carried out among various tribes.

"It received a terrific reception when we showed it to the Masai—eight members of the audience were in convulsions and had to be carried out after the film had finished," Mr. Innes said.

Many of the African employees of the unit are now so conversant with the equipment used and technique applied in taking films, that they are able to complete films, including the scene selection, script and the actual "shooting."

'It is a great pity'

"It is a great pity that we have to close down now, before seeing the fruits of our labour", said Mr. Innes.

Although 35 films have so far been made, they have all been sent back to London for copying and only three or four have been shown in East Africa.

Those which have been shown—particularly the agriculture and hygiene educational films—have received a big ovation from African audiences and been of great benefits, says Mr. Innes.

It was originally intended that the Unit should stay in East Africa for three years. Colonial Office economies have caused its early closure.