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MACEDONIAN ECONOMY DEVELOPED

Industry

Before the war, industry in Macedonia was virtually nonexistent. This year, however, the first agricultural machines (seeders and cultivators) from the new Macedonian factories were put into service on Macedonian farms. Many workers' homes were furnished with furniture made in Macedonian workshops. The first centrifugal pumps, railroad car cranes, and machinery for drying fruits and tobacco have been produced this year by Macedonian industry, and iron has now been smelted in the new furnaces.

The value of Macedonian industrial production has risen from 324 million dinars in 1939 to seven times that figure today. The ratio of industry to agriculture has increased from 11:89 before the war to 22.5:77.5 last year.

The first Macedonian industrial enterprises, founded during the first half of the Five-Year Plan, include a nicotine factory, part of a factory for concrete products, and a talc factory. Craftsmen have left their workshops and primitive tools and are now operating large machines in the "Tito" Metal Products Factory. Last year workshops for processing the transparent, silvery Macedonian marble known as onyx, two blast furnaces for the industrial production of lime, and a modern factory for processing leather were opened. Recently the machinery for a glue factory was put into operation.

Agriculture

In 1947, first year of the Five-Year Plan, 140,000 more hectares were planted than in 1946. By the end of 1951, 20 percent more land than before the war will be planted in Macedonia. Almost half of the arable area of Macedonia now belongs to the socialist sector, and almost 28 percent of the farm families in this republic belong to farm workers' cooperatives. These are now in Macedonia 740 farm workers' cooperatives with a membership of about 47,000 families.

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RESTRICTEDPower and Reclamation

This republic now receives 462 percent more electric power than in 1945. The gigantic system of hydroelectric power plants now being built in the Mavrovo Mountains will light hundreds of factories, villages, and schools. The Vardar will change its course and flow into an artificial lake. The entire villages of Mavrovo, Bkiforovo, and Lamevo will be moved up higher on the mountain, while the remains of the houses and of the road now leading to Debar will remain at the bottom of the lake. Work on this project was begun in 1947 and will be finished in 1951.

Water from the streams that now menace the fields will be controlled by the high dam of the future "Zrnovci" Hydroelectric Power Plant now under construction, and their concentrated water power will run its turbines. The artificial lake of the hydroelectric power plant will furnish sufficient water to irrigate the neighboring rice fields.

In Pelagocija, where the bed of the Crna River is being widened and deepened, 50,000 hectares of fertile land will be secured against floods and planted with industrial crops by 1951. Last year 800 hectares of new crop land were reclaimed in Strumicko Polje; of these 800 hectares, 500 will be planted in corn and sunflowers, which will be raised this year for the first time. Irrigation of the reclaimed land will permit the harvesting of two to three crops per year.

Railroads

Two standard-gauge railroad lines were under construction at the end of the first half of the Five-Year Plan, 30 June 1949. The first tunnel on the Kumanovo-Sveti Nikola railroad line was begun this year. The line will be about 70 kilometers long and will connect the Kumanovsko and Oveo Polje, the two granaries of Macedonia. The 70-kilometer Skoplje-Gostivar line will soon replace the old narrow-gauge line between these two points.

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