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PROGRESS IN RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

In 1940, electricity was being used on 10,000 kolkhozes and 2,500 machine-tractor stations. A total of 601 rural hydroelectric power plants which electrified 2,500 kolkhozes and 679 MTSs was built in 1945; by 1946, the capacity of rural electric power plants had attained the prewar level. During 1946 and 1947, a total of 3,250 electric power plants, supplying power to 6,000 more kolkhozes and 800 more MTSs, were built; by 1948, the capacity of rural electric power plants was twice as great as before the war. Several thousand electric power plants, to supply thousands of kolkhozes and 1,380 MTSs with power, are to be built in 1949.

In Sverdlovsk Oblast, 2,083 kolkhozes, 10 sovkhoses, and 84 MTSs have been electrified; 6,500 electric motors have been installed. Preparations for organizing the first electric MTS employing electric tractors have begun. About 50 rural electric power plants have been planned for construction in 1950.

The so-called Oka cascade is of considerable interest. Six dams intercept the flow of the upper Oka. The largest station of the cascade will serve 28 kolkhozes, will power the pumps for irrigating 200 hectares of crops, and will provide power for 60 threshing machines and other kolkhoz machinery. Construction of most of the stations will begin next spring.

In Moscow Oblast, all kolkhozes in 22 rayons have been electrified.

In the Ukrainian SSR, 132 rural hydroelectric power plants, electrifying 633 kolkhozes and 122 MTSs, were put into operation, 2,226 electric motors were installed on the kolkhozes, and 93,000 more electric light bulbs were lit in 1948. Khar'kov Oblast took first place and Tarnopol' Oblast second place in the competition among the Ukrainian oblasts for fulfilling the rural electrification plan.

In the Armenian SSR, about 400, or more than one third, of the kolkhozes in the republic have been electrified. More than 50 sovkhoses and MTSs have also received electric power. It is planned to complete kolkhoz electrification in 1950.

In Kazakhstan, 193 electric power plants were built in 1948 and 185 more are under construction. Electric power permitted irrigation of 2,000 hectares of crops in 1948.

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