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NOVOSIBIRSK METALLURGICAL ENTERPRISES

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Novosibirsk Metallurgical Plant

In Novosibirsk during the past war, the metalworking industry achieved foremost significance. As an example of the great increase in the metalworking industry, in 1940 it accounted for 22.9 percent of the total cost of production in Novosibirsk City and Oblast; in 1944, this had risen to 80.5 percent.

Metallurgical production in Novosibirsk developed as the result of the tremendous increase in the machine-building industry. Production of iron and steel castings has recently more and more become an integral part of the machine-building plants, the majority of which have their own foundries. The Novosibirsk Metallurgical Plant is an enterprise for rolling metal, and uses stock imported from the Kuzbass and Magnitogorsk. The plant supplies sheet iron and steel to all machine-building enterprises in Novosibirsk, and in addition sends a great quantity of its production to plants in the Urals and European USSR, primarily for automobile and tractor production. The Novosibirsk Automobile Plant, now under construction, is an extremely important consumer of the plant's products.(1)

Construction of the Novosibirsk Metallurgical Plant was begun in 1940. At first, the plant was planned as an auxiliary unit of "Sibmetallstroy" and was to have produced four types of cold-rolled metal, but later events made it advisable to make basic revisions in this plan. The plant was transferred to the People's Commissariat of Ferrous Metallurgy soon after the beginning of the war and the scope of its operations expanded. The plant was scheduled to supply the armament industry of the country with various types of cold-rolled and hot-rolled band and sheet steel. When the war began, there was still much construction work to be done, since only the foundations had been laid for two tremendous plant buildings, and in the third, which was incomplete, assembly of the equipment had begun.

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By the end of 1941, assembly of the large cupola electric annealing furnaces, designed for band steel, had begun, together with the installation of the cold-rolling machinery. The furnaces needed large ammonia-gas installations to preserve the metal, annealed at 700 degrees, from the formation of scale. Because of the lack of heat-resistant steel, Alundum tubes, and ammonia gas the heat engineers developed a new method of annealing high-carbon steel by using kerosene gas. In this way it was possible to avoid building the ammonia-gas installations. Gray clay wall insulators were used instead of Alundum.

In the spring of 1942, assembly of the first shop was almost completed. Wood had to be used in the pickling baths instead of steel because of the wartime shortage. The shop includes a pickling line, two continuous rolling mills, cutting machines, and electric soaking pits. At that time, the shop rolled band steel from stock obtained from Magnitogorsk, but the process did not give satisfactory results and a special type of hot-rolled stock was needed. The plant engineers found a method of producing this stock at the plant, thus obviating imports from Magnitogorsk.

Shop No 3, which produces hot-rolled billets, was completed in December 1942. The shop was the first in the USSR to use oil bearings. In April 1943, the first equipment, flying shears, was assembled in Shop No 4. In August, a three-table cold-rolling mill was put into operation. With this new machine, the plant was able to begin large-scale production of cold-rolled sheet up to 640 millimeters wide. Three new circular and three rectangular electric annealing furnaces were next put into operation. The production capacity of Shop No 4 made possible the production of an expanded assortment of metal products. The plant was the first in the USSR to start production of a chromium-manganese-silicon (khromansil) steel. Among its other special products were sheets for electrolytic plating and structural steel. A shop for producing metal consumers' goods was built and produced enameled and galvanized metalware.

In the postwar Five-Year Plan, the plant is scheduled to increase the production of cold- and hot-rolled metal $1\frac{1}{2}$ times. The plant's shops are now preparing for wide-scale production of steel conveyer bands which will replace the expensive rubber conveyer bands in many enterprises, including mining, coking, construction, metallurgical, and food industries. In enterprises of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy alone, the use of steel conveyer belts instead of rubber will mean a saving of 10 million rubles. At present, 200 tons of the steel bands have been produced. With further expansion of this type of production, the plant will supply the bands to all Soviet industry. For this purpose, special machines are now being installed in the shops and will make possible a considerable increase in steel quality.

The plant is also scheduled to expand the rolling of tool steels, production of which was begun during the war, and to increase output of sheet for new automobiles begun in the postwar period.

The plant is now making tests of the production of cold-rolled stainless steel sheet and transformer steel, for which it will need special furnaces which will temper the steel at 1,200 degrees in a hydrogen atmosphere. The first tests of rolling transformer steel were successful. The postwar plan also provides for the construction of a special shop for the production of saws -- the only one in the USSR.

Novosibirsk Tin-Smelting Plant

At the end of 1940, construction of a tin-smelting plant was begun on the left bank of the Ob' across from Novosibirsk. In December 1941, with the completion of the refining shop, the plant had begun to put out finished products. The reverberatory furnaces were put into operation in the smelting shop by 23 February 1942, and by the summer of 1942, the plant for the most part was completed. (2)

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Construction of the tin plant was of the greatest importance to the city's economy. The plant processes concentrates obtained from regions of the Far North, Primorskiy Kray, East Siberia, Kazakhstan, and Central Asia.(1)

Among the plant's shops are: smelting shop, roasting, refining, dust-collecting shops, and a concentration plant.(2)

Bauxite and Other Mineral Deposits

Of particular interest among the Novosibirsk mineral deposits are the bauxite deposits associated with the Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks of Salair. As the latest discoveries have shown, these deposits form extremely rich beds in the upper regions of the Berd' River. Geologists of the West Siberian Geological Administration discovered these deposits during the last war in the upper region of the Berd' at the junction of Novosibirsk and Kemerovo oblasts and Altay Kray. The area of the bauxite basin includes 400 square kilometers. The larger deposits include the Oktyabr'skoye, the Mayskoye, and others, but the quality of the bauxite has not yet been sufficiently studied. The discovery of these deposits, the only ones in the entire territory of Siberia, is of great significance to the state. The bauxite deposits may be used to supply the aluminum plant in Kemerovo Oblast, which has been obtaining alumina from the Urals.

A deposit of tinstone, including industrial reserves, has been discovered and prospected in the Kolyvan' region, but is not being exploited because of difficult mining and technical conditions.

The mercury deposits in Maslyaninskiy and Legostayevskiy rayons are not industrially important as yet. Alluvial gold deposits in these regions are of industrial importance. They have been mined for many years, chiefly by small scale prospecting artels.(1)

SOURCES

1. Novosibirskaya Oblast' (Novosibirsk Oblast), by N. N. Protopopov, published by Ogiz-Novsibgiz, 1948
2. Novosibirsk v gody velikoy otechestvennoy voyny (Novosibirsk Oblast in the Years of the Great Patriotic War), edited by M. N. Nikitin, Novsibgiz, 1948

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