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ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION IN CHINA INCREASES DURING SECOND HALF OF 1950

The Chinese mainland press records noteworthy improvement and increases in electric power production in widely separated parts of the country during the second half of 1950.

A concrete instance of the trend toward centralization of the electric power industry is the program already in progress to bring 11 of the largest power plants in Central and South China under unified direction and operation. The concerns thus affected are the following publicly owned plants, the first four of which are already being operated directly under the Ministry of Heavy Industry at Peiping; the other seven plants are provincially or municipally owned and operated: the Wu-ch'ang and Ta-yeh plants of the A-nan (South Hupeh) Electric Power Company, the Hsia-nieh-ssu (1) /numbers refer to appended characters/ Plant in Hunan, the Hsiang-mei (2) Coal and Electric Company in Hunan, the Chi-chi (3) Water and Electric Company at Hankow, the Kwang-chow Electric Works at Canton, the Ch'ang-sha Electric Works, the Nan-ch'ang Electric Works, the Cheng-chou Electric Works, the Liu-chou Electric Works, and the Heng-yang Electric Works.

The latter seven plants are to become nationally owned enterprises and will be taken over gradually as the Ministry of Heavy Industry finds competent personnel to manage them. They are to be operated on behalf of the Ministry by the Department of Industry of the Central and South China regional government, which is now making preparations for taking them over.

It is hoped in this way to offset the disadvantages of separate installations with dissimilar characteristics, and to convert the plants into parts of a unified power network, as a result of which many advantages are expected to be realized. (Hankow Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 30 Oct 50; also Shanglai Ta Kung Pao, 31 Oct 50). A new generator has been installed in the O-nan No 2 plant at Ta-yeh. (Hankow Ch'ang-Chiang Jih-pao, 22 Oct 50)

On 1 October 1950, a new hydroelectric plant began operations at Hu-hai-t'ang (4), 5 kilometers south of Chin-hua, Chekiang. Its source of water supply is a natural lake about 1.3 square kilometers in area, capable of

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supplying 340 horsepower of hydraulic power. At present, it is producing 200 kilowatts of electric power. Construction of this plant was made possible by foodgrants from the Chekiang provincial government and by grants of generating machinery from the Department of Industry of the East China regional government. Its capacity is sufficient to supply the lighting needs of Chin-hua, the power needs of numerous small industries, besides solving the irrigation problem of some 30,000 mou of rice paddies. By means of this irrigation, several thousand mou of land near the village of Mu-shao-t'ang (5) can now raise three crops a year instead of one. It is expected that the cost of this project can be recovered within 4 or 5 years with receipts from sale of current alone, besides benefiting from other important increases in economic values which accompany this development. (Shanghai Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 26 Oct 50; Hangchow Chekiang Jih-pao, 27 Oct 50)

Many plants have overhauled their installations in whole or in part. The No 4 boiler at the Hsia-kuan Power Plant at Nanking has been thoroughly overhauled. (Nanking Hsin-hua Jih-pao, 26 Oct 50) The turbine-equipped Hsu-chou Power Plant at Suchow has been completely reconditioned with great improvement in operating economy and capacity. (Tsinan Ta-chung Jih-pao, 27 Oct 50) The No 4 generator in the Tientsin Electric Power Plant has been repaired and overhauled. (Tientsin Jih-pao, 30 Oct 50)

At numerous points, drives have been made to achieve greater efficiency in operation and thus reduce or eliminate accidents and waste. At the privately owned Ch'i-ming Electric Company in Ch'eng-tu, Szechwan, the company effected savings that enabled it to reduce the charges for current by about 16 percent. (Shanghai Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 26 Oct 50) Similarly, the plant in Tsi-ning, Shantung, although comparatively a small one and with old machinery, has been reconditioned and its effective capacity raised by about 20 percent with an accompanying economy in coal consumption. (Tsinan, Ta-chung Jih-pao, 27 Oct 50)

Due to more profitable operating conditions, the privately owned Ming-hua Plant at P'ing-hu, Chekiang, which supplies power for rice-polishing mills, flour mills, cotton gins, and vegetable oil presses, has been able to increase its capacity by the installation of new equipment. (Hangchow, Chekiang Jih-pao, 16 Oct 50) Due to improved economic conditions in general, in September 1950 the Hangchow Electric Works increased its maximum load of 8,400 kilowatts by 24.4 percent over that for July; and its current for consumers having meters increased by 40 percent during the same period. With this increase in production, the unit cost of production was reduced, so that besides reserves laid aside for depreciation, a substantial surplus was realized. For October, the charge per unit for power current is to be reduced from 1,000 yuan to 900 yuan; and the charge per unit for lighting current is to be 2,450 yuan for business houses and private dwellings alike. (Hangchow Chekiang Jih-pao, 10 Oct 50)

Government owned plants at Harbin, Ch'ang-ch'un, Chia-mu-ssu, An-shan, Chin-chou, and Ying-k'ou are among those in the Northeast which have carried on among themselves competition in efficiency, freedom from accidents, and elimination of waste. (Mukden, Tung-pei Jih-pao, 20 Oct 50)

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