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CONSTRUCTION OF "GEORGI DIMITROV" DAM CONTINUES

The reservoir near the "Georgi Dimitrov" Dam will cover an area of 8,000 decares, will have an average depth of 30 meters, and will have a capacity of 100 million cubic meters of water. The dam wall will be 640 meters long, 80 meters wide at the base, and 8 meters wide at the top. The concrete piers of the wall have been wedged 12 meters deep in the rocks; the fissures extending 40 meters below the piers have been filled up with clay by huge filling machines. The wall itself will be 40 meters high.

An electric power plant with a capacity of 7,000 kilowatts will be built below the dam. The main power plant will have a capacity of 25,000 kilowatts. Together, the two power plants will produce 8 million kilowatt-hours per year.

The water will flow from the dam's reservoir through the main irrigation canal and will irrigate the Stara Zagora Plain. The canal is lined with stone blocks from the reservoir to Gorno Panicherevski Bani, a distance of 26 kilometers. At certain places large concrete slabs hold the moist, crumbly soil. From Gorno Panicherevski Bani, the water will pass through the heart of the Sredna Gora (Mountains) through a 12-kilometer tunnel and will emerge at Trite Chuchura (Three Fountains) [near Stara Zagora?]. There the main power plant will be erected. This will be the longest tunnel in Bulgaria and in the Balkans. At the Yagoda end of the opening, the digging of the tunnel has progressed a distance of 1.5 kilometers. Almost the same distance has been reached by the miners on the other side, at the Bedechka opening. For 2 weeks the miners have used a Soviet loading machine, which promises to double the speed in excavating the tunnel.

The entire tunnel is expected to be dug by the beginning of 1954, at which time the large power plant near Trite Chuchura will begin to operate. The water of the Tundzha River will flow through the irrigation canals to the fields of Kolarovo, Yastrebovo, and Stakhanovo, irrigating almost 500,000 decares of black soil. The area of Stara Zagora Plain sown to grain will be smaller, but the yield of the grain crops will be greater. Instead of wheat,

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20 percent of the area of Stara Zagora Plain will be sown to cotton. About 100,000 decares of Stara Zagora black soil will yield three to four times more cotton than the entire country at present. In a few years, cotton fields will appear on the two sides of the Stara Zagora Khaskovo highway.

The present director in charge of constructing the dam is Engineer Kodzheykov who is a graduate of the Bulgarian Polytechnical Institute. The builder of the canal, Engineer Chernev, was graduated 3 years ago. Engineer Kunchev, who is 30 years old, is in charge of the tunnel construction.

Three years ago, Soviet specialists, including Moyseyev, Lofitskiy, and Kriger, gave lectures here on drilling rocks. They surveyed quarries, made studies as to the type of dam to be erected, and drew the blueprints for the tunnel.

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