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BUILD IRRIGATION CANALS IN CENTRAL HUNGARY

Bacs-Kiskun County, also known as the Kiskunsag, is one of the poorest agricultural producing regions of the country. In addition, flooding of inland waters swelled by heavy rains often causes considerable damage. A drainage canal constructed under the former regime to tap these inland waters drained all water from the area, causing a high degree of drought. Inhabitants of the area named the project the "cursed canal."

Since liberation, the government has been increasing the area of irrigated land yearly. A portion of an irrigation canal in the Kiskunsag has been completed and will form an irrigation network with the Domsod flood control canal, and the Danube Valley drainage canal.

The canal network will be fed by the Soroksar branch of the Danube, and will be kept at a high level by water from two dams. The dams will permit the level of the canal network to be kept at 97 meters above the level of the Adriatic Sea. The average altitude of the surrounding territory is 95.50-96.50 meters. Thus, the fields may be irrigated by gravity, eliminating the need for irrigation machinery and pumps. Construction of the dams has begun. The Sari dam has been completed, and the Kunpeszer dam is being built.

As compared with the Tiszaorveny mechanical water lift, which pumps 6 cubic meters of water per second, the filled canal network will supply 13 cubic meters per second, making possible the irrigation of 26,000-30,000 cadastral yokes. With the construction of additional canals, the irrigation system will provide 23 cubic meters of water per second, permitting irrigation of 50,000 cadastral yokes. Gravitational irrigation permits a great saving in irrigation machinery and fuel.

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