CHRONICLES

The builders of the unique Arpa-Sevan tunnel completed driving the longest (22.5-km) stretch on the eve of the elections to the Supreme Council of union and autonomous republics and to local Soviets of Workers' Deputies. The driving was done with a deviation of only 2 mm. Such accuracy is the result of the work of surveyor A. Pruss. As of June 15, 45.8 km had been driven in all, leaving 2.5 km. The builders decided to complete the driving of the tunnel ahead of schedule by the opening of the 25th Party Congress.

Work has started on the construction of the Shamkhor hydroelectric station on the Kura River in Azerbaidzhan.

Construction of the complex of hydraulic structures on Lake Pavlo-Yarvi, supplying municipal water to the city of Zapolyarnyi and the Pechenganikel' Plant, was completed in early June of this year. The complex was constructed by builders of the Specialized Construction and Mechanization Trust (Spetsstroimekhanizatsiya).

Near the village of Zubtsov in the Kalinin district the Vazuza River was diverted from its main channel at the construction site of the main hydrodevelopment in early June. The system of hydraulic structures consisting of dams, canals, high-powered pumping stations, and pressure pipelines, extends from Zubtsov to Moscow in the territory of the Kalinin, Smolensk, and Moscow districts and is intended to supply drinking water to the capital. Diversion of the Vazuza marks completion of the first stage of work on construction of the main development of this system.

The first detachment of builders of the Kureika hydroelectric stations landed on the banks of the Kureika River, a right-bank tributary of the Enisei, on June 4, 1975. The workers began to construct a village, berths for receiving cargo, storage terminals, and construction bases. The first unit of the station is to be placed in industrial operation in 1981.

D. M. Yurinov, director of the S. Ya. Zhuk All-Union Planning, Surveying and Research Institute (Gidroproekt), spoke at a press conference on June 17, organized by the pressdepartment of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He reported that the capacity of existing hydroelectric stations in our country has reached 37.1 million kW. About 700 large and small hydroelectric station are operating. Another 29 with a total capacity of 20 million kW are under construction, including the Sayano-Shushenskoe station with an installed capacity of 6.4 million kW. The construction of hydroelectric stations involves the concomitant solution of problems. The sequences of hydroelectric stations on the Volga, Kama, and Dniepr rivers permitted reconstruction of these rivers for transport, converting them into deepwater routes with a length of 6000 km, connected by a system of canals with all seas of the European territory of the country.

The hydropower potential of the country is great. Today, taking into account the existing hydroelectric stations and those under construction, only 21% of the hydropower resources have been developed. In Siberia it is planned to construct several large hydroelectric stations with a total capacity of 25-30 million kW. The construction of pumped-storage power plants is being developed.

Construction of the Makhachkala-Derbent 330-kV transmission line has begun. This transmission line, more than 100 km long, is to be put into operation by the end of the year, when the Chirkey hydroelectric station will be operating at full capacity. The electric current will flow over the new line to Derbent. At present the electrical energy being generated by the unit at the Chirkey station is transmitted to Makhachkala, Kizilyurt, and Groznyi.

The first stage of the 30-km Volga main canal, passing through the steppes of the Saratov trans-Volga region, was accepted by the state commission in June. Water was delivered through the new canal three months ahead of schedule. According to the project it should irrigate 11,600 ha. Today practically the entire area stipulated by the project is under irrigation in the canal zone.

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