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LITOSTROJ FACTORY PRODUCES LARGE TURBINES

Ljubljana -- The Litostroj factory is equipped with cranes which are able to lift parts weighing 20 tons or more. A large new steel foundry is now being completed there.

The Litostroj factory can produce the largest water turbines.

The large assembly room is divided into three parts and has no supporting pillars. There are two large cupola furnaces, each able to produce 6 tons of iron per hour. The modern cranes which lift the coke and iron into the furnaces can travel along the entire roof.

The assembly section has two large installation pits, also called cellar chambers where turbines are assembled. The workers can reach the turbines through special passages which are built on the side. The room is large enough to contain two seven-story apartment houses. There are two cranes, one above the other, which can carry material to all sections of the room.

The processing section is both under and above ground. The part situated above ground has a turret lathe for processing turbine stators, a machine for processing heavy axles, and various other lathes and drills. Next to them, there is an entire series of semifinished turbines: four Pelton turbines for the Savica power plant (each blade can support a weight of 11 tons), other turbines destined for Montenegro and Macedonia, Francis turbines for Zenica, etc. There are also parts of large Kaplan turbines. Nine stators for Kaplan turbines already have been cast.

The entire factory is full of underground passages which furnish water, steam, electric power, and compressed air to the machinery. The channels are so large that one can ride through them on a bicycle. All the installations are easily accessible. Since power is obtained from below, a machine can be installed in any 2 square meters anywhere in the processing section.

The heavy processing section is specially constructed and consists of two large rooms, both built in two parts. Each room has two cranes fastened to ceiling beams

- 1 -

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which are unsupported by pillars. This represents a load of 70 tons at one point and was accomplished by the so-called suspended construction, which has been installed in the roof.

Two Pelton turbines made at Litostroj have already been installed at the hydroelectric power plant near Vlasenica. Turbine blades, able to support a load of 43 kilograms per square millimeter and having minimum expansibility, have been built there. Litostroj has built a second turbine and complete hydraulic equipment for the Vlasenica plant: two turbine regulators, two globe valves, and two intake pipes. All this equipment was subjected to pressure of 30 atmospheres, while the greatest pressure at the plant is only 16 atmospheres. The turbines will make 300 revolutions per minute, but were tested at 1,000 revolutions.

The Litostroj factory is to build 4,000 tons of hydraulic machinery by the end of 1951.

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- 2 -

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