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SOURCE Bashkimi

SPUR INDUSTRIAL PLANTING

DEPLORES POOR INDUSTRIAL PLANTING -- Bashkimi, No 1614, 26 Feb 50

Although the planting of industrial crops in Albania began 3 or 4 years ago, the program has not yet developed satisfactorily. Industrial crops are planted in small and scattered areas, scientific farming practices and chemical fertilizers have not been used, and contracts are not carried out. The peasant who cultivates industrial plants, until he has assured himself of his bread, concentrates on his grain, and so neglects his work on the cotton, sugar beets, sunflowers, tobacco, etc. The work of the agricultural authorities, technicians, and crop-purchase authorities also has not been satisfactory.

If the "Stalin" Textile Combine is to produce, Myzeqe and other coastal valleys must provide the cotton. If the sugar refinery at Korce and the Maliq combine are to produce, more sugar beets must be grown. At the present rate of production of industrial plants in Albania, the growing needs of industry cannot be met.

To encourage the production of industrial crops, the Albanian government has issued a new order on contracting for the delivery of these plants. This order provides incentives whereby peasants who raise industrial crops may still assure their daily bread. Whereas last year only 25 kilograms of corn were given as an incentive for each quintal of cotton, this year 55 to 100 kilograms of corn will be given. Whereas last year cotton growers received only 6 meters of cotton cloth for each quintal of cotton, the new order provides 12 to 20 meters. The order also prescribes prices that are more profitable for the producers. Whereas last year the price of cotton was 2,000 lek per quintal regardless of how much cotton was delivered, this year the price rises progressively with the amount delivered from 2,000 to 4,000 lek. Similar adjustments have been made for other industrial crops.

OPEN MODEL FARM ON RECLAIMED LAND -- Bashkimi, No 1615, 28 Feb 50

After 3 years of continuous reclamation work in the swamps of Lake Maliq, a new state? farm is being formed on the reclaimed land. This farm, which will serve as a model for the agricultural cooperatives and peasants of the Korce District, will be one of the largest and most modern in Albania.

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This year 800 hectares of land on the farm will be planted. On one part of the farm, over an area of 73 hectares, wheat is growing as never before. After the spring plowing this year, 250 hectares of oats, 50 hectares of sugar beets, 40 hectares of barley, 150 hectares of corn, 52 hectares of hemp, 35 hectares of beans, 34 hectares of sunflowers, 40 hectares of potatoes, and vegetables and fodder crops will be planted.

As soon as the spring planting is over, 25 tractors will begin work toward opening up 1,000 hectares of new land. In 1951, this farm will have 1,800 hectares under cultivation, and after a few years will have 4,553 hectares.

The farm will supply 25 percent of the sugar beets required by the great sugar combine now under construction at Maliq, which will produce 10,000 tons of sugar annually. The farm will also raise large numbers of livestock and will supply milk, meat, and other foodstuffs to the workers at the combine.

A fund of 21 million lek has been set aside for the development of the farm this year. The 36 different projects planned for 1950 include living quarters for the workers' families, an office building, barns, a storehouse, etc. Minor reclamation projects are still in progress. The Devoll Canal, which will control the Devoll River, is near completion. Work is continuing on the various projects that will permit the ultimate exploitation of all the land to be reclaimed by the draining of the valley.

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