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NEW CZECHOSLOVAK METALLURGICAL PLANTS

TO BUILD METALLURGICAL COMBINE IN SLOVAKIA -- Prague, Tvorba, Vol XX, No 35,
 30 Aug 51

In February 1951, plans were approved by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia for the new "HUKO" Combine, an industrial complex in Kosice Kraj of eastern Slovakia. These plans are now beginning to take form. Housing for the brigades of workers is going up rapidly by the assembly-line system.

This combine will be the largest metallurgical combine in central Europe. It will produce a million tons of pig iron annually. The blast furnaces will be better than any now in existence in Europe outside the USSR. One blast furnace will be as high as church in Kosice, and will consume 150 carloads of various materials daily.

Limestone alone will be hauled in quantities of several hundred carloads daily. Special self-dumping cars, each with the capacity of five ordinary freight cars, will be used. Whole trains of these modern cars will be dumped in 30 minutes, without disconnecting the locomotive or the cars. A special loading and unloading machine in the factory rail yard will move 1,000 tons an hour.

A trainload of finished products will leave the plant every half hour. The plant will have its own classification yard, track, and three separate stations. The amount of track required within the plant itself is equal to that from Kosice to Cesky Tesin. New highways, trolley-bus service, and, later, streetcar service are being planned.

The gas tank of the new combine will be higher than the steeple of Spiska Nova Ves, now the highest in Slovakia /86 meters/. The duct carrying away the blast-furnace gas will be so large that it will be possible to drive an automobile through it. The plant will have 15 kilometers of pipelines of all types and some 1,500 kilometers of cables.

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Besides the metallurgical combine, several secondary plants will serve the chief installation. The combine will have its own maintenance and machine shop. Slag is now being used as a building material but a plant will be built which will produce enough slag brick and prefabricated construction material to supply the entire kraj.

The new steel mill will be as large as those in the USSR. The steel ingots poured here will be of various sizes, some requiring a special freight car to carry them. This car will be 25-35 meters long with 10-16 axles, and will weigh approximately 125 tons empty.

The ingots will then move on to a blooming mill 10 meters high. The operation of the blooming mill will be completely mechanized, and the mill will be staffed by women only. Some 500 different profiles will be made here. The rolling mill also will be completely mechanized. Its annual production of rails alone will equal in length the diameter of the earth.

In building this plant, full use will be made of Soviet knowledge and experience, especially that gained in the construction of the new Klement Gottwald Metallurgical Plant in Kuncice near Ostrava. Several foremen who will be in charge of various sections of the installation at Kosice are now or have been in Ostrava, acquiring experience in order to avoid the errors made there. There is a continuing shortage of manpower.

The plans for the city to be built adjacent to the main project also are very elaborate. There will be a kindergarten, a nursery, club rooms, schools from primary through college levels, and apprentice center, and a department store larger than the Bila Labut in Prague. Plans are also in process for rebuilding Kosice, from which workers will commute.

Present plans call for the completion of the entire project by the end of 1953.

METALLURGICAL PLANT IN KUNCICE TO PRODUCE ONLY STEEL -- Prague, Zemedelske Noviny, 25 Aug 51

The new Klement Gottwald Metallurgical Plant in Kuncice near Ostrava will produce nothing but steel, which will be manufactured into finished products at other plants. The location of the plant in the Ostrava-Karvina coal-mining region will reduce to a minimum the expense of hauling fuel. The coke works at the new plant will produce first-class coke for the blast furnaces.

The first blast furnace will require 2-3 tons of iron ore, depending on its iron content, 900-1,300 tons of coke, and 450-740 tons of limestone, to produce its capacity of 1,000 tons of pig iron.

The new installation will have several blast furnaces. The supply of ore, coke, limestone, and coal for the cooking plant will be completely mechanized. Two rolling mills will be erected. -- Lenka Haskova

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