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Title: EXCAVATION AND CONSTRUCTION, USSR BLASTING OPERATIONS
Source: Ogonek, No 12, 1951, March 1951, Russian weekly periodical.

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ATTENTION BLAST!

... The Angren River raged. Its yellow foaming water overflowed the banks and raced away sweeping everything before it. The oldest man in Uzbekistan remembered no such flood. The streams and the brooks which used to run dry during the summer, turned into whirling roaring torrents.

The water burst into the ravine, filled it, and rushed on to the dike of one of the canals. Here it spread into a huge lake. A little more and it will overflow the dike, destroy the canal, and pour downwards wiping out the flowering fields and orchards, villages and towns

The Republic's organization, "Vzryvprom" [Industrial Explosives Trust] was assigned the task of taming the river.

For three days, on the banks of the Burdzhaz, fast preparatory work went on. On the fourth, an explosion of tremendous strength took place. Sixteen cubic meters of earth flew into the air. When the dust settled, a dam 14 meters high and 22 meters wide at the base was formed in the middle of the Burdzhaz ravine. A disaster had been averted. The blasting engineers, Kobzev, Rozhdestvenskiy and Zaglotskiy, managed to make such a close calculation that all the earth raised by 50 tons of explosives fell exactly where it was supposed to be and stemmed the water's flow.

With every year the blasting operations gain more importance in our national economy. The powerful destructive force, when guided properly, serves the great purpose of construction. The blasting technique in our country has made great strides of progress during Stalin's Five-Year Plans, says M.M. Dokuchayev, chief engineer of the "Soyuzvzryvprom" [All-Union Industrial Explosives Trust]. Eighteen years ago, for the first time in the world, 257 tons of explosives were detonated at one time during the construction of one of our railways. A hollow resulted 220 meters long, 20 meters deep and 75

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meters wide. The obstruction vanished. To remove it in the usual way would take at least two years.

Looking over a large book of photographs, Comrade Dokuchayev graphically demonstrated where and how blasting was applied. Here is a picture of the greatest blast in the world, in which 1808 tons of explosives raised 800,000 cubic meters of earth. This explosion was noted by the seismographs of the Soviet Union.

Of no less interest is the picture of a canal which appeared after a simultaneous blast of several thousands of explosive charges placed in a direct line.

There are two more curious pictures in the book. One of them shows a smokestack rising among inhabited houses. It is pierced with shells and tilting dangerously over one house. Should this pile of iron and concrete collapse, several houses would be wrecked. Instead, the engineers blasted it so skilfully that it fell neatly between two houses without injuring either of them.

With the help of explosives we pulverize mountains, we dig holes for planting fruit trees, we build canals and dikes, says M.M. Dokuchayev. Grand work is ahead of us on Stalin's great construction projects in the Turkmen SSR, the Ukraine, Crimea, and on the Volga river. Soon, there also will be heard our cry: "Attention Blast!" and hundreds of thousands of tons of earth will rise to the skies.

B. Protopopov.

[The picture of the explosion which appears on page 23 cannot be definitely identified with any of the explosions.]

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TSKHALTUBO IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

Tskhaltubo warm springs were known as early as in the 12th Century. At that time there stood one "bathhouse", intended for the court notables.

The health resort Tskhaltubo and its primitive springs belonged once upon a time to ^{the}brothers Ioseliani who used the salubrious water as a means of profit.

Nowadays, at the resort Tskhaltubo there are seven bathhouses, a sanatorium for 1,300 beds, several polyclinics, boarding houses, hotels, and rest houses. Much attention has been paid to planting trees and to public welfare in general. But the planners continue to build new sanatoria.

This year the bathhouse at spring No. 6 [See picture to the right (internal view of the swimming pool)] will go into operation. In its architecture and internal arrangement, it surpasses the bathhouses of the resorts Matsesta, Kislovodsk, Yessentuki. There are fifty comfortable individual cabins and three swimming pools at the disposal of the patients. The bathhouse contains also an inhalation unit, rooms for shower and massage, and other therapeutic equipment. The working capacity of the bathhouse is 130 patients per hour.

The day is near when a 5-story hotel [See picture below] with 110 rooms will open its doors. This hotel houses a large concert and theatre hall, gymnasiums, a restaurant, and a telephone exchange.

The construction of a sanatorium, with 200 beds, for the Ministry of the Coal Industry USSR is nearing completion; it will be one of the most beautiful buildings in Tskhaltubo.

The construction of 9 new sanatoriums will begin this year.

V. Ialishvili.

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