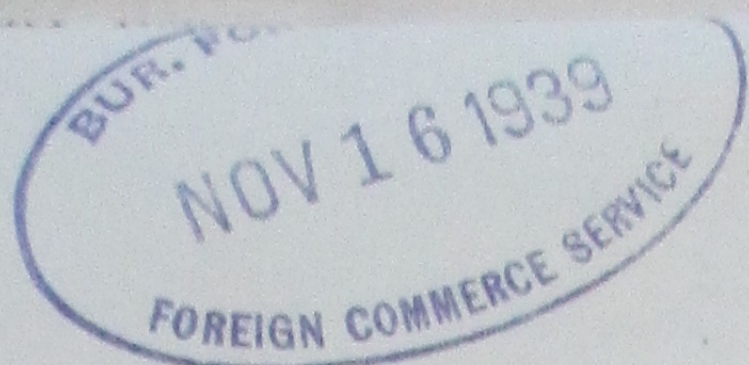


for herself the economic resources of China and to force the man power of that most populous of nations to do her bidding. Under the plausible pretext of respecting Chinese sovereignty she actually sets up puppet rulers



Shanghai, China, September 28, 1939

FILE No.

Peiping

Subject: "HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS IN CHINA"

Submitted by: A. Viola Smith, Trade Commissioner.

7700

(Required Report; Inquiry Electrical Division,  
October 6, 1938.)

Supplementing Special Report No. S-39, dated February 10, 1939 recent press despatches from Chungking indicate that the Chinese Government is working on three water power projects capable of producing 100,000 kilowatts as part of its development program of the southwestern provinces.

Two of these hydro-power projects are in Szechwan and one near Kunming in Yunnan Province. In one of them, a modest beginning has already been made and by spring of 1940 a 1,000 kilowatt plant will have been erected. It can later be increased to 25,000 kilowatts. Surveying work has been completed on the other projects, one of which will have a capacity of 60,000 kilowatts while the other will have 30,000 kilowatts.

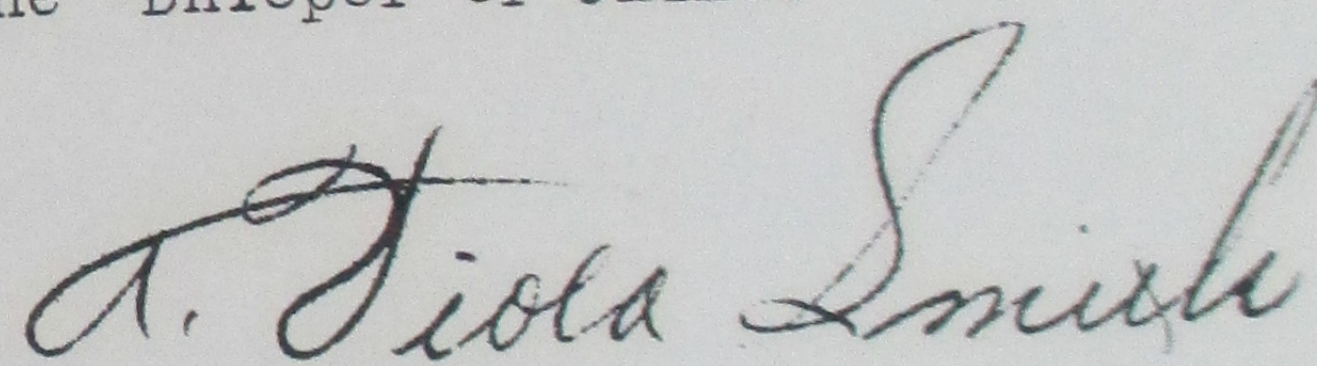
The largest and most hopeful project is that on the Tatu River, of the Copper River, in Sikang Province (formerly western Szechwan). The average flow of the river is about 1,200 cubic meters per second, with an ordinary minimum flow during the winter of not less than 350 cubic meters per second.

Above Tungkaitse, a small town on the river near Kiating, Szechwan, the river has a drop of 580 meters in a stretch of 160 kilometers. The river is particularly valuable for hydro-power here as its water level at Tungkaitse is 84 meters higher than that of an adjacent river. Between



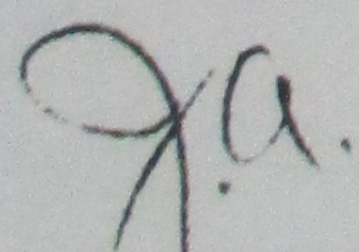
these two places, the shortest distance is only 7 kilometers. By driving a tunnel through the interposed mountains and by diverting the Tatu River current to Mapien River through it, a gross head of 84 meters can be gained.

Mr. Frank P. Fifer, a hydro-electric expert of Hugo L. Cooper and Company of America, after examining this site, is reported to have suggested that if a high dam is constructed across Tatu River near Tungkaitse, raising the water level by 60 meters, and if a large part of the flow of the Tatu River, 600 cubic meters per second, is diverted to Mapien River, it will be possible to obtain some 850,000 hp. at this single spot. The geological formations there permit the construction of such a dam. Mr. Fifer is further reported as having likened this site to the widely known hydro-electric plant in U.S.S.R. and called it the "Dnieper of China."



A. Viola Smith,  
Trade Commissioner.

Approved for Transmission:



Julian Arnold,  
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