

NEW LAND EMERGES FROM THE SEA !

Holland continues its Zuydersea-reclamation.

(Length:105 M.)

The reclamation of the IJssel-lake (former Zuydersea) is one of the greatest hydraulic works of this century.

In 1950 the endiking of the 3rd polder started (Eastern Flevoland); the first "Wieringermeer", completed in 1931; the second "North-East Polder" completed in 1942.

During these 6 years 2000 men worked almost uninterruptedly at the 3rd polder-project.

AIRSHOT

An enclosing-dike, the length of 90 kilometres had to be constructed. Medio August 1956 this dike was nearly closed, except for a stretch of 1200 metres. Air-pictures give an impression of the situation.

AIRSHOT of
village
with
pumping-
house

For the dry-making of the polder-to-be, three pumping-houses have been built. The biggest of the three (being the greatest of Europe) is in Lely-town, the future capital-place of the new polder.

The exterior of this building has been beautified with a sculpture by Paul Gregoire.

In the South-east corner of the polder-to-be, is the second pumping-engine, embellished with a tile-tableau, showing a farmer and a fisherman shaking hands over the dike.

In the Northern part of the polder the third pumping-house was built.

AIR-PICTURE

Two days before the closing ~~works~~ of the enclosing-dike the hole of 1200 metres was reduced to 40 metres only.

MAP

With the closing of this hole, North East of Lely-town, a new mile-stone was reached in the history of the Zuydersea-works. In the afternoon of this closing-day, hundreds of workmen on the almost ready dike were witness of the new victory that Holland scored over the water.

Amongst the working-ships was a great fleet of pleasure-crafts. On the forecastle of the "Van Hasselt" H.M. Queen Juliana followed the last phase of the work, opening the possibility of reclaiming 54.000 hectares of the former Zuydersea to be changed into a fertile agricultural area.

The great moment was there ! The dike was closed. The crane-drivers brought their apparatus to a standstill; workmen waded through the mud and met each other.

AIRSHOT

The enclosing-dike around Eastern Flevoland was closed.

In the coming months this dike will be finished and consolidated.

That very afternoon a start was made with the reclamation of the new polder. There was an official ceremony in the main-pumping-building at Lely-town, where Queen Juliana set the pumps into work. Simultaneously the 2 other pumps started.

In 8 months $1\frac{1}{2}$ milliard KM cube water will be driven out. Then the reclamation can start.

AIRSHOT

Within a few years the new polder will offer the same aspect as the already existing Zuydersea Polders Wieringermeer and North East Polder.