

MORE POWER FOR FRANCE

Damming the water of the fast flowing river Cere, France battles her way back to prosperity by tapping new sources of hydro-electric energy. Top-line engineers, architects and power-men gather on one of Europe's biggest construction jobs.

Scraping the barrel of France's war-crippled industrial plant, the country's best and biggest machines have been rushed into service here. With 140 million cubic yards of speeding water to hold, the project calls in three 40,000 horse-power turbines. Into the ten foot-thick enclosing walls, (built to provide a power-giving fall of water) goes a lava-like sea of concrete.

Hereabouts, it's "Danger - men at work" with the accent on danger. Like flies in a forest of steel rods men are dwarfed against the towering results of their own capacity to build. Even in its unfinished state, the dam unmistakably foreshadows the power it can give to a needy land. Behind the giant walls, 150 yards high, is enclosed a great contribution to France's country-wide drive back to her old place among the world's great nations.

Finished, the mighty dam at Cere waits until the great moment comes and the pent-up waters crash down into the valley. From this project all France will draw electric power. Sixty million kilowatts an hour; cold statistics, but to Paris, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Rouen, they spell work and warmth.