

PATHE JOURNAL
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PARIS(18) France

Paris, March 17th.1952

DOOMED VILLAGE

Tignes

March 15 and 16th.1952

Roto, Gaumont

positive developed : 74 meters - 243 ft

In spite of many political and humanitarian interventions to the Minister of Industry as well as to the President of the Republic the doomed village will have to die.

Although its inhabitants are still claiming that they will stay and drown with their houses, some of them have agreed to go to their new dwellings and are moving their furniture and belongings.

Meantime the Telegraph workmen are removing all electric and telegraph wires and equipment from the doomed village. The Telephone is also removed from the village post-office.

On March 15th, as originally planned the dams are closed and from now on, the valley will begin receiving the waters of the upper mountains rivers and fill in. Water is already filling in, and the placard announcing the village of TIGNES is outrooted. But the real danger in the village will not begin until several weeks, and already the officials are taking all necessary measures to remove the deads from the smallerimetary.

At the dam, the dam the flood-gates are closed and water begins to fill in the valley, near the dam, it will continue going up until it floods the village of Tignes in the background.

Paris, March 11th. 1952

THE VILLAGE THAT WILL DISAPPEAR

Site, TIGNES, in the alps
on March 9th and 10th. 1952
Competition unknown.
Cameraman, Jacques BATTON
POSITIVE DEVELOPED: 95 meters - 315 ft

The modernization and construction plans of the French Electricity and Power Company, includes construction of large plants and utilisation of water power in the mountains.

A large dam is under construction and nearing completion in TIGNES valley, a small village in the Savoie department, 1659 above sea level in the Alps. But when the dam will be watered, the village will have to disappear under several meters of water.

The 430 inhabitants of the old small mountain village have been protesting for the past years, but the Prefect has had to make a final decision; and the inhabitants are now faced with rapid evacuation to two nearby villages : BREVIERES and BOISSE. They are split in two camps, the ones who have accepted conditions of compensation offered by ELECTRICITE de FRANCE, and the ones who refuse to leave their lands and village.

The dispute is getting warmer and warmer as the day of evacuation becomes nearer and nearer. The other day the Prefect of Savoie had to come in person to get the archives of the small townhall. It was a lot of discussions with the former Mayor, new elections for another Mayor are being held, as the former one does not want to go on with a split population on the issue of evacuation. No trouble have as yet arisen, but part of the inhabitants of the old valley stubbornly refuse to move away, whilst others have already begun destruction of their former houses to get material for a new one lower down in the valley.

Our picture shows :

- General views of the Tignes Valley, with the small village, and dam
- general views of the village, placard announcing TIGNES, shots of the church, village with small village church, war dead memorial on the village square, shots of houses, Town hall; the eldest woman in TIGNES aged 89, in her home, which she refuses to leave, interior views of homes and farms, women feeding cattle, the village life still going on
- the last wedding that will take place in TIGNES, shots of village cemetery where the deads sleeping under their cover of heavy snow will have to be removed to another cemetery/ People discussing village matter in the street,
- the Prefect (in civilian clothes) and the former Mayor (in sport outfit) discussing with the villagers, The village's Archives being shown before being removed. Elections and voting operations for a new Mayor; villagers discussing with the Prefect and former Mayor still in exercise
- general views of BRIGERS TIGNES and valley that will be drowned .