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HELICOPTER PIPE-LIFE.

A helicopter helps in a new hydro-electric scheme at Tignes in the French Alps. It carries a hefty length of metal piping along the valleys and drops it just where its wanted - and it goes on doing this ten hours a day. About two years ago, the valley was flooded to make way for the reservoir. But when work began on the project, engineers found that water from mountain streams and melting glaciers hindered them. So, a pipeline was planned to drain it all away. The helicopter was brought in to speed up the job which must be finished before the winter.

Strong winds call for every ounce of the pilot's skill. Sudden upcurrents threaten to make the aircraft and its load swerve towards the mountain sides. Thanks to the helicopter, which is rapidly becoming the air's jack-of-all-trades, the day is fast approaching when the valley will provide power for a large area of Eastern France.