

NEW PIPE LINE BUILT IN ALGERIAN DESERT

Exclusive

Positive developed 31 meters - 103 ft

A new bigger pipe-line is being built across the Algerian desert to bring oil from Hassi-Messaoud wells to the Mediterranean port of Bougie.

This 660 kilometers pipe line, starting from 22 kilometers north of Hassi-Messaoud, at HAOUT-EL-HANRA, will cross approximately 350 kilometers of desert wastes, across the HOINA mountain at SELATNA pass (1,100 meters above sea-level) and down to BOUGIE, through the Iron Gates and the SOUHIMAN valley.

The pipe itself has a diameter between 60 centimeters and 55 centimeters according to the place (489 kilometers at 60 centimeters diameter and 171 kilometers at 55 centimeters diameter). Total weight 75,000 tons.

Construction is well under way, and schedule calls for 3 kilometers and a half pipe-laying daily. It will be entirely in operation by October 1960. ~~Three~~ ^{four} pumping stations are being built along the pipe-line one at HAOUT EL HANRA, at the starting point, 22 kilometers north of Hassi Messaoud wells, the second 28 kilometers west of the Djanna oasis, the third 15 kilometers north of Biskra and the last one at M'Sila. Pumping stations 1 and 4 will be in operation in October next year, each one equipped with 5 motor-pumps powered by 2000 HP motors giving a yearly flow of 4,8 million of tons of oil by then. Station number 3 will be in operation in April 1960, and by October 1960 the entire project will have a yearly flow of 14 million tons of oil.

Storage installations are meanwhile built in Bougie where already foundations of several tanks are laid. Storage facilities in this town will be of 420,000 cubic meters by October 1960.

As far as the pipe-line is concerned 12 meters long pipes are brought by railway to Touggourt station whence they are taken along to the spot already welded two by two in 24 meters lengths. Special equipment opens the trench while the pipes are bandaged and welded together before being laid down and buried in the sand at the average of 3500 meters a day. A hard work in difficult conditions, but which will give France mighty push in her economy by bringing oil supplies to oil-thirsty industries.

Pictures show the pipe-line laying operations in full swing in the desert near TOUGGOURT. The first part of the pipe with two pumping stations are scheduled to begin operations in October 1959.