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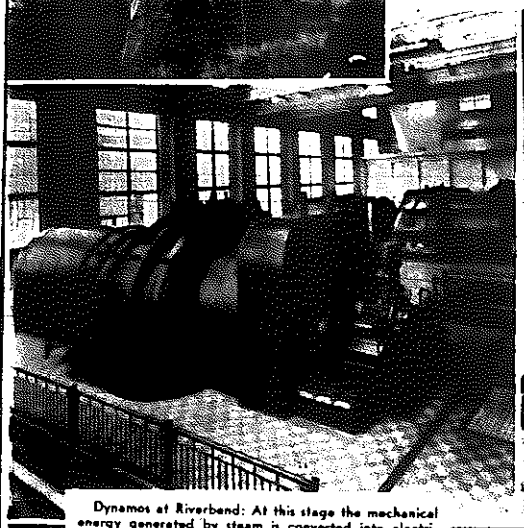
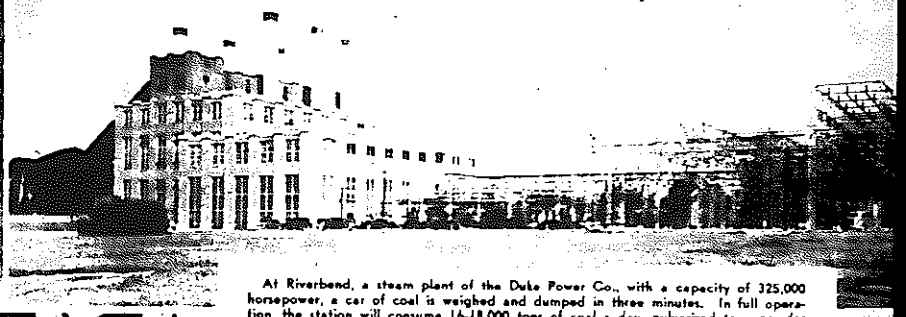
From great plants like these, over a far-flung network of wires, flows the industrial lifeblood of the Piedmont Carolinas: electric power. A fortunate meeting back in 1904 between the financial genius, James B. Duke, and the engineering genius, William States Lee, the one with the capital and the other with the idea, gave substance to what now is known as the Duke Power Company.

In three years its power sales were 23,000,000 kilowatt hours annually. Last year sales had increased to 2,300,000,000 kwh. The Duke system, which chiefly serves this area, generates at capacity 1,250,000 horsepower, nearly two-thirds of which is hydroelectric, the rest steam.

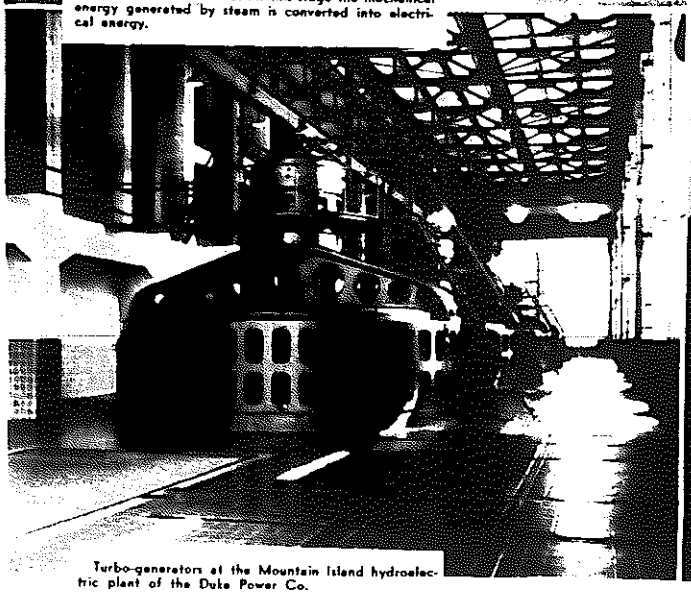
Hydroelectric plant at Great Falls, S. C.: Old Great Falls plant of the Duke Power System, 32,000 horsepower, on the near side of stream. Beyond, the newer Dearborn plant with a capacity of 60,000 horsepower.



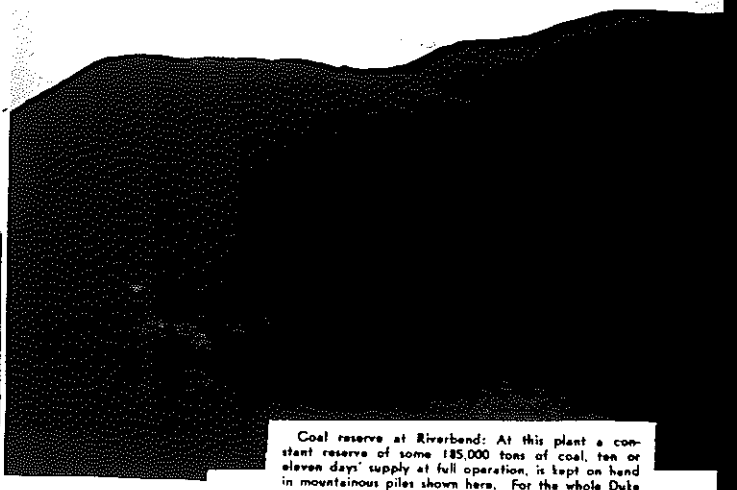
Dynamos at Riverbend: At this stage the mechanical energy generated by steam is converted into electrical energy.



At Riverbend, a steam plant of the Duke Power Co., with a capacity of 325,000 horsepower, a car of coal is weighed and dumped in three minutes. In full operation, the station will consume 16-18,000 tons of coal a day, pulverized to a powder of the fineness of talc. 150,000 gallons of water a minute are used for cooling purposes.



Turbo-generators at the Mountain Island hydroelectric plant of the Duke Power Co.



Coal reserve at Riverbend: At this plant a constant reserve of some 185,000 tons of coal, ten or eleven days' supply at full operation, is kept on hand in mountainous piles shown here. For the whole Duke Power System a coal reserve of approximately 355,000 tons is necessary to assure against interruption of operation.

New in 1905, outmoded by 1925: Here is shown the first hydroelectric plant on the Catawba River, the original plant of what is now the Duke Power System. Built in 1905 with a capacity of 10,000 horsepower, it was replaced twenty years later.

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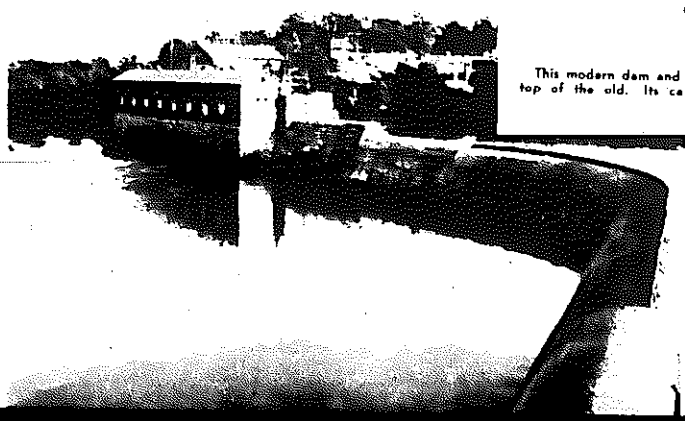

This modern dam and generating plant, erected on top of the old. Its capacity is 80,000 horsepower.