

LL
12 January 1952
V - 564BULGARIAINDUSTRYMining
Power
ManagementSTANDARD OF LIVINGFood
WagesLABOR

Life in Factories

The "Rosen" Copper Mine Near BURGAS

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A Bulgarian escapee in Turkey who worked at "Rosen" for six months in 1950.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1950.

* * * *

The "Rosen" copper mines, situated 24 kilometers from BURGAS and seven kilometers north of the ROSEN village, are working at full capacity with 500 to 600 workers working in three shifts.

These mines have been yielding ore since some 40 years, and prior to World War I¹ they were run by a private Czech company. At that time there was only one site exploited, since then three new sites have been opened to exploitation. The old gallery was 200 meters deep and branched off on both sides. Today the total area covered by the mine is five kilometers long and two kilometers wide, and a new narrow-gauge mine-railroad network is laid in the galleries, with two elevators working at different points. These elevators work on the V-belt system and each box-load consists of roughly 300 kilos of ore.

The exact analysis of the extracted ore is unknown, but the lead contents is estimated to be very high. The approximate amount of gold extracted from one metric ton of copper ore varies between 1 and 1.4 grams. The extracted ore is carted to the grinding works, which reduce the big lumps to small granules. The granulated ore is washed in a primitive basin with sea-water pumped from BURGAS. This preliminary process removes the particles of earth and light metals, floating on top while the heavier ores precipitate to the bottom. A second basin, constructed some 50 yards lower, makes it possible to separate the ore further. No mechanical installation exists at the mine for the classification and screening of the ore. The material is transported to BURGAS in trucks at the rate of approximately 60 trucks per week. The ore is deposited in BURGAS harbor from where it is shipped directly to the Soviet Union.

The electric power needed for the installations at the mine comes from the "Cherno More" power station, relayed through the BURGAS power plant.

The mine is under Bulgarian management, but Soviet technicians supervise the production. The director of the mine, 45-year-old RAKOHOV Petir, is under the orders of a committee of Soviet supervisors.

12 January 1952

- 564

BULGARIA
(cont'd)

The work is divided into three shifts: the first starts at midnight and lasts until 0800 hours, the second lasts from 0800 to 1400 hours and the third from 1500 to 2300 hours. On Sundays, only the first shift is working.

The pay of a miner for an eight-hour day varies between 450 to 600 Leva. At times, however, the unusual rate of 700 to 750 Leva per day is attained by miners doing extra hours.

Food is served at the mine's canteen, where workers buy 500 Leva worth coupons with which they get enough food for approximately three days.

The technicians and administrators have their separate canteen, and the Soviet technicians and some 80 geologists have with them a Russian cook.

EVAL COMMENT: Generally accurate.