POWER GENERATING STATIONS

Will The Angara Be Navigable?

Last year the Angara was dammed at the site of the Boguchansk Hydroelectric Power Station. For another three or four years river craft will be able to pass through a temporary lock, but then when the water storage basin begins to fill up, this will no longer be possible—the absence of installations in the hydrosystem to allow the passage of vessels will completely preclude the through passage of vessels and timber rafts.

And what is the result of this? The transshipment of timber and freight will become necessary. The timber-rafts will be broken up when they arrive at the water storage basin; the timber will be piled up on the bank and then trucks will transport them downstream over a distance of 32 kilometers to a point where the logs will again be tied together to form timber-rafts and hauled further on to Lesosibirsk. Thousands and thousands of tonnes of freight will be transshipped in this same manner.

None of this, however, bothers the power engineers in the least. Why the power engineers? Because in recent years the decision to have or not to have installations in hydrosystems to permit the passage of vessels has rested with them. And the decision has usually been against having such facilities.

The "Lengiprorechtrans" Institute [Leningrad State Institute for Planning in River Transportation] takes a different view. Instead of a timber-handling depot and a freight-storage terminal port, they have