

and where thermal plants will be more and more reduced to a stand-by role.

The very fact that many projects call for increased use of electricity means, however, that the coal consumption of Algeria will continue to increase from the pre-war figure of 768,000 tons per annum, all of which was imported. Since the war, the bituminous deposits at Kenadza and Colomb-Bechar have been exploited, and produce about 150,000 tons a year. These deposits, however, are inaccessible, and certainly uneconomical as a source of supply. One possibility is, nevertheless, that a large power plant might be established near the mines, with a high-tension line running down to the coast, thus relieving the pressure of import requirements to a considerable degree.

HISTORY

The known history of Algeria begins in the twelfth century B.C., when the Phoenicians colonized the coastal areas and used the ports for trading purposes. At that time the country was inhabited by Barber tribes, of Hamitic origin, and strangely resembling Europeans, with many examples among them of fair or reddish hair, blue eyes, long heads, and tall, slim figures. These tribes among themselves never organized into a large, homogeneous group, and it was only under the pressure of foreign invaders that the country was from time to time brought into unison. Thus although the Phoenicians were not interested in the interior of the country, the Carthaginians, who took over from them, managed to pacify a good part of Eastern Algeria, and were the first to introduce agriculture among the nomadic inhabitants.

Even before the destruction of Carthage in 146 B.C., the Romans had already succeeded in establishing themselves in Western Algeria, which they then called Numidia, and they were able to unify the whole country after the fall of Carthage. The Romans, being great colonizers, brought a considerable amount of their culture into Africa, and the native populations were Romanized to some extent, most of the natives learning to speak Latin and follow the religious and legal practices of Rome. Christianity shortly made its appearance, and again the very adaptable Berbers followed the times and were largely converted to the new religion.

By the second century A.D., the Romans had begun to lose their power, and the Vandals, coming down through Spain, established a short-lived Empire in the fifth century. Then the Roman Empire of Byzantine swept into the country, and added the eastern influences of Constantinople and the practices of the Orthodox Church. This Empire too, had a short life, and finally fell before the Arab invasion from the East. It took the Arabs only forty years to penetrate Egypt, Cyrenaica, Libya and what is now French North Africa. By the end of the seventh century, although there were still many