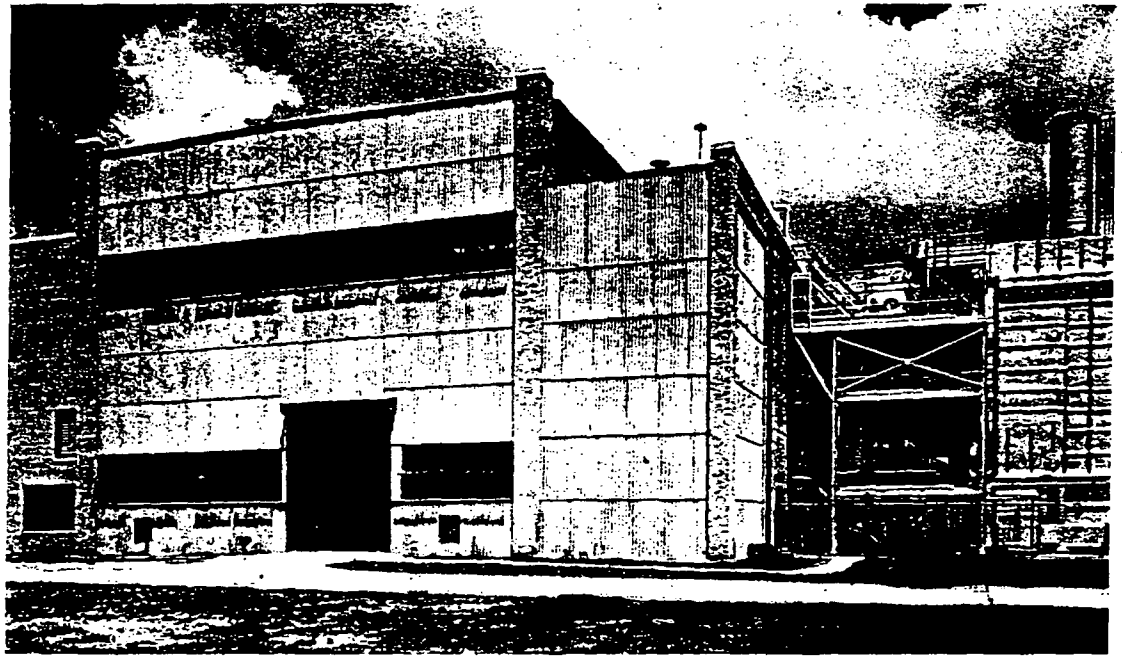


STEAM PLANT WORKS OUT FOR LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA



The Lafayette, La., power plant as seen from the rear. Corrugated transite removable walls provide for future expansion.

THE comparatively small Deep South city of Lafayette, Louisiana, found the load on its generating plant increasing with surprising suddenness. A good bit of the load increase was attributed to home air conditioning, attic fans, and other fans, put into service during the summer by the 30,000 residents. And, of course, when commercial establishments began installing summer air conditioning, competition built up this load in a hurry. Further demand for electric power resulted from increased production of rice, sugar, cotton, yams, as well as industrial operations.

It became obvious that the city's 2.3-kv diesel engine generating plant

had to be rapidly augmented. Space limitations precluded adding to the diesel plant. So a new plant, at another location, had to be considered. It was imperative that the plant be "on-the-line" by the first part of the summer of 1951.

An economic study resulted in a decision to install a steam plant incorporating two 4000-kw turbine-generators. It was planned that the diesel plant could help out during heavy peak periods in the summer and would be used as a stand-by at other times. A semi-outdoor design was chosen for the steam plant.

The photographs show the neat installation of one of the two Elliott

5000-sq ft divided water-box surface condensers. Although the plant is located less than 1000 ft from the Vermillion River, a study revealed that the river flow could not be depended upon for cooling water purposes. Therefore, a 15,000-gpm 3-cell cooling tower was installed.

The Elliott surface condensers are, of course, equipped with Elliott twin two-stage air ejectors and Elliott Crocker-Wheeler motors drive the four circulating-water and four condensate pumps. Six Elliott C-W totally-enclosed fan-cooled motors drive the draft fans.

Barnard and Burk, of Baton Rouge, La., were the consulting engineers.