

EDITORIAL FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES OF JANUARY 6, 1952.

## T. V. A. AS A DEFENSE AGENCY

The ancient controversies over the Tennessee Valley Authority grow fainter each year as the annual reports roll off the presses. This is not because the principle of federal development of electric power has been universally accepted, but because T. V. A. stepped into the breach at a critical time and is so manifestly necessary. T. V. A. power contributed substantially to victory in the Second World War, including a large part in developing the atomic weapon. Now it is engaged in a program which by 1954 will raise its installed capacity from 3,181,000 kilowatts to 6,800,000 kilowatts. It is "committed to supply the Atomic Energy Commission for two of its plants about as much electrical energy as is used in the City of New York".

In recent years T. V. A. has produced about 6 per cent of the total kilowatt hours of electricity generated in the United States. The percentage may increase a little, but we must remember that the private power industry is still going strong, effecting great economies in production and transmission and steadily adding to its capacity. Since 1933 electrified farms in the T. V. A. region have risen from 3 per cent to 80 per cent or more, average home use has grown to almost double the national average, and retail rates are less than half the national average. But the private power industry, though it is being challenged, is not being submerged.

T. V. A.'s power operations naturally stand out, but it continues to reduce flood crests, facilitate navigation, experiment with fertilizers, encourage farm demonstrations and provide recreation. Incidentally, it has just about wiped out malaria, which had an incidence of 30 per cent in some parts of the Tennessee Valley in 1933 and no incidence at all last year. And this, too, contributes to the national defense.