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## ELECTRIC POWER IN A GROWING ECONOMY

One of the most impressive aspects of Canada's postwar growth is the increase in electric power capacity, the Bank of Nova Scotia "Monthly Review" points out. In twelve years generating capacity has approximately doubled, a record addition will be made in 1958, and projects already under way promise substantial further increases in the next few years. The scale on which new facilities have been added all across the country has both reflected and contributed to Canada's rapid and varied postwar expansion.

The surge of resource development could hardly have come about without the availability of low-cost hydro-electric power. At the same time, growing industrial activity in the more settled areas of the country, the extraordinarily rapid rate of population growth and the increasing use of electrical equipment in the home have meant soaring demands for power, particularly in the heavily populated and industrialized areas centred on Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

As in the past, the emphasis has been primarily on hydro-electric power. But thermal generating facilities, using coal, fuel oil, and more recently natural gas, have become increasingly important and now make up some 15 per cent of the installed capacity in the country as compared with less than 6 per cent of a much smaller total in 1945. In time, of course, the costs of nuclear power are expected to become competitive, and the large re-

sources of uranium in Canada will then be used to meet rising power requirements.

## POWER EXPANSION

Every region in Canada has shared in the postwar expansion of power facilities. Most spectacular has been the "power boom" in Ontario where the amount of electricity generated rose by no less than 17 billion kilowatt-hours between 1949 and 1957, more than 40 per cent of the entire growth in Canadian output during this period. Quebec's expansion, the second largest in absolute terms, has been less striking proportionately, partly because capacity there was already so large, reflecting the importance of the pulp and paper and aluminum industries in that province. Though overshadowed by the central provinces, growth in British Columbia has been very substantial and at a faster rate than in Ontario.

Outstanding in these three provinces have been the huge hydro-electric projects of recent years -- Kitimat-Kemano in British Columbia, Bersimis in Quebec, and the Sir Adam Beck Niagara-River plant and the St. Lawrence power project in Ontario. But these are only the largest and best-known in a long list that has also included added facilities in the Saguenay Valley area and at such long-established sites as Beauharnois on the St. Lawrence River in Quebec, major additions on the Ottawa River in Ontario, and the extensive development of the Bridge River system in British Columbia, as