

This evaporation, of course, varies constantly with the temperature, pressure, winds, etc. It has been computed that the area of the United States, on an average, evaporates from its surface 0.4 (four tenths) inches every 24 hours. This vapour ascends until its temperature is reduced to the "dew point" and thus clouds are formed. Fogs and mists are clouds on the surface of the earth, condensations to minute watery particles due to reduction in temperature. Rain and snow result from further condensation and the formation of larger particles. This ascension and descension of the world's moisture is an essential, fundamental factor in the maintenance of vegetable and animal life on the earth.

#### IN THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD.

The flow of our streams and the immense volumes of water that pour over our numerous water-falls are dependant for their supply upon the annual precipitation, *i.e.* upon rain and snow. Possibly no country in the world has such wealth of power in her water courses as Canada. It has only been partially developed as yet, but from Niagara Falls alone—and it is only one of many, though the largest—there is a total power chartered for of 850,000 H.P. Of this, 299 H.P. are at present developed. These figures include the product of the works on both sides of the river. The three works generating electricity on the Canadian side can to-day furnish 154,000 H.P., and their ultimate output will be 425,000 H.P. Data might similarly be given for a score of other water-falls being utilized to-day. This water-power converted into electrical energy is employed for a thousand useful purposes. It carries us through the streets of our cities, and in many parts of Western Ontario from town to town. It lights our houses, and in the realm of manufacture has already largely replaced coal as a source of power. To tell of all its usefulness would be to give a catalogue of well nigh all our manufactures. Carbide, itself a source of light, is made through the assistance of electricity directly obtained through the power of the water-fall. Phosphorus, wood pulp, paper are similarly prepared, and so the list might be continued almost *ad infinitum*. It would indeed be difficult to estimate the value from the commercial standpoint of our precipitation and of our water-falls—they constitute one of Canada's most important natural assets.

#### IN THE AGRICULTURAL WORLD.

It is, of course, to agriculture that the greatest benefit comes from our rain and snow. Vegetable life requires large