

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Vancouver Island is rich in water-powers, and from approximate estimates the total possibilities of them all cannot be less than 500,000 H.P. In addition to those powers already described, at Gold Stream, Puntledge and Jordan River, there are several great powers awaiting development, the largest of which is that at Campbell River on the north-east coast of the Island. This water power providing storage obtained in Buttles Lake, and the Upper and Lower Campbell Lakes, is capable of a development of 150,000 H.P. at an economical figure. Among other large powers are those at Great Central Lake, Sproat Lake and Stamp Falls near Alberni, Qualicum Falls, Cowichan Lake, Shawnigan Lake, and Nanaimo River. The Island has in addition to those mentioned, innumerable small powers that may be made commercially successful if used for the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Island.

HOW TO ACQUIRE A LICENCE TO TAKE AND USE WATER FOR POWER PURPOSES

THE administration of all water powers in British Columbia is now vested in the Province, including those within the Railway Belt formerly administered by the Dominion Government.

The Province has been divided into thirty-one "Water Recording Districts," the boundaries of which follow as nearly as possible the main watersheds, and a "Local Recorder," in most cases the Government Agent, appointed for each District. The local recorder acts as a "Recorder," the active administration in the more important districts being in the hands of a "District Engineer" whose duties are defined by the "Water Act, 1914," and who is subject to the Comptroller of Water Rights, whose office is at Victoria, B.C., and in whom alone is vested the power to approve an application and grant a licence. The printed forms of notice, application, etc., may be obtained on application to the office of any Water Recorder, District Engineer, or to the Comptroller's office.

Licences may be granted for the use of water for any of the following purposes: Domestic, Water-works, Mineral-trading, Irrigation, Mining, Steam, Fluming, Hydraulic, Miscellaneous, Power, Clearing-streams, Storage, Conveying and Lowering Water, but as this chapter deals only with the acquisition of a licence for the use of water for the development of power, the procedure in that connection only will be given.

As the water may be required in varying quantities, the applications have been classified as follows:—"Class A," "Class B" and "Class C," the definitions of these classes, as far as they relate to the development of power being as follows:—

"Class A"—Where the power to be developed does not exceed 100 H.P. and is to be used by the applicant only.

"Class B"—Where the power to be developed exceeds 100 H.P. and is to be used by the applicant only.