

There are at present probably from three to five thousand h.p. in motor capacity installed for such use in our city, generating in the neighborhood of 1,500 to 2,000 h.p. actually consumed on an average. There are but few electric isolated plants in the city where electric current is generated by the producer for his own power purposes. The Toronto Electric Light Co. are practically the only source whence electric current can be purchased in Toronto at the present time. Their charges average from 2½ to 3 cents per h.p. per hour, and they do not care to furnish a greater amount to any one customer than 25 h.p. Their price to large customers, where conditions are favorable, has been as low as two cents per h.p. per hour, whereas for other very small powers at a great distance from their mains they charge even higher than three cents. Two cents per h.p. for ten hours per day, 300 days in the year, amounts to \$60 per annum per h.p.

In comparing steam and electric power a number of conditions have to be taken into consideration. Undoubtedly consumers of less than 25 h.p., where steam is not largely used for other purposes, could use electric power to great advantage, even at the price charged by the Toronto Electric Light Co. Consumers of from 25 to 50 h.p., where steam is not used for other purposes, could profitably use electric power if the price were in the neighborhood of \$25 per h.p. per annum. The Hamilton Electric Light & Cataract Power Co. are supplying electric current at \$20 per h.p. per annum to consumers of 50 h.p. and upwards. This is the lowest bona fide price we have known to have been made for electric current. The Hamilton Company, however, hamper this with varying conditions. We have been informed of an alleged offer made by them of \$15 per h.p. to a very large prospective consumer, but do not learn that this can be confirmed. Notwithstanding the apparently very low price of \$20, we know of one manufacturing plant close to the Hamilton Power Co.'s transforming station, who considered it to their advantage to put in a steam plant, because of the saving in using the exhaust steam for heating.

It may also be said that the Hamilton power has thus far been largely taken by corporations and industries in which the people exploiting the power are more or less interested.

At Niagara Falls, N.Y., where electric energy should be, and doubtless is, produced as economically as any place in the world, both the Cataract Power Co. and the power company operating the old canal, charge at the rate of \$15 per h.p. per annum for power in limited quantities. There are, however, no restrictions, and the power can be used twenty-four hours a day if desired. Where larger quantities of power are taken, concessions are made, but these concessions are conditional upon matters of location, purposes for which the power is supplied, term of lease, and so forth, and special inducements are generally made to parties locating on the lands of the power companies, both of whom are seeking to develop the properties acquired by them.

In comparing steam and electric powers for manufacturers using greater quantities than 50 h.p. per annum, several conditions must be taken into consideration. Manufacturers having steam plants installed are, as a rule, well satisfied with them, and probably would not care to change, as, at best, the saving would be so trifling, if any. Furthermore, the installation of electric apparatus, if done in the most improved manner, and so as to secure the greatest amount of efficiency, would involve a very considerable outlay, quite the equivalent of the cost of the steam plant, and perhaps more. On

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