

valuable in the world. Here the entire water power of the River St. Lawrence, the outlet of the greatest body of inland water in existence, and the greater part of the Ottawa River, which is the outlet for the Thousand Lakes of the immense North West Territory, combine, and in a distance of about a mile make a descent of twenty-five feet, so as to furnish a water power estimated at four millions horse power. This enormous body of water, having its source of supply in the far interior, and not being effected by the droughts or floods which are such serious drawbacks on small or mill streams, might be the means of building up a large city of mills and factories, which is now allowed to run idly to waste. A principal reason for the neglect to utilize this natural force is the magnitude and cost of the undertaking. The development of water power on even small streams is expensive, and where the power is to be leased out to tenants some delay must necessarily take place before the returns from the investment can be made. In this case the expenditure would be large, and some time must elapse before the power could be made available, and mills established to use it. If, however, the scheme could be carried into effect in divisions, so that one portion of the works could be occupied and give a revenue before the others are commenced, it would greatly facilitate the undertaking and render it capable of being taken in hand by a Joint Stock Company of moderate capital.

The water power to be obtained is immense, and admits of being rendered available in divisions, each complete in itself. In this way a comparatively small outlay of capital will be required in the first instance, and a quicker return will be obtained. In the midst of the Lachine rapids is a cluster of islands extending the entire length thereof, which divide the river into two channels, the only navigable channel being on the south side of the islands aforesaid. The north channel, between the islands and the Montreal shore is too rocky to be ever made navigable, but is most favorably situated for hydraulic power. There is also running between the islands before mentioned a natural water course or channel for the whole length of the cluster, and by widening this channel a permanent power can be obtained on the islands alone of seventy-five