

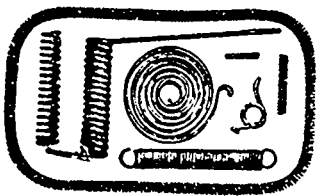
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now paid for it will remain in the pockets of the citizens who use light, who hold stock in the street car company--because in that case, unfortunately, the fares are fixed, and the saving will be in the cost of operation--or who now pay high prices for steam-produced power for manufacturing purposes. The cost of goods into which power enters largely will be greatly reduced, and the opportunities of competition correspondingly increased.

It is to be presumed that the street railway and the other big institutions like the Massey Co. and the Island Ferry Co. who have at present their own electric plants, will buy directly from the producers at the Falls. The city, which has now an annual coal bill for waterworks purposes of \$70,000, would be a large customer, because not only this sum but the chief part of the \$75,000 spent for electric street lighting is really paid for coal, and the water produced electricity would be very much cheaper. The Electric Lighting Co. will, of course, find its plant for producing electricity by steam on its hands, but it will be otherwise in a very advantageous position for distributing cheap power and light to the smaller consumers, because its mains and feed wires thoroughly cover the city and render the installation of a new distributing plant unnecessary, unless the company decides to fight water-produced power with coal produced power, which we fancy none of its advisers will counsel. The probability is rather that it will adapt itself to the new conditions and become a distributing agency of the Niagara power.

The changes outlined will take probably three years in the accomplishment, but they will place Toronto in as good a position as its rivals in the race for industrial supremacy. To have Niagara behind us will be the next best thing to the discovery of perpetual motion. There will also be a very comfortable feeling in the knowledge that the gentlemen who sit in their parlor in New York and fix the price of bituminous coal for all of eastern North America will take less toll of the people of Toronto.

**A BLOW AT THE SWEATING SYSTEM.**

A bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Latchford, into the recent Ontario Legislature, to amend the shops regulation act, would, had it been enacted into a law, have been a severe blow to the existence of the "sweating system" in the province. The bill provides that every person contracting for the manufacture, improvement or alteration of clothing, or parts of clothing, shall keep a written register, prominently posted, of the names and addresses of all persons to whom such work is given out to be made, and each article so made shall bear upon a label the name and address or number of the person making it. Such articles shall not be exposed for sale without a permit from the inspector, showing that the place of manufacture is in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition. When such an article of clothing is found to have been made under unclean or unhealthy conditions it shall be seized and impounded, and a label "insanitary" placed on it, after which it shall be disinfected by the Board of Health at the owner's expense. The Board of Health, if they see fit, may destroy articles of clothing which they find were made in a work shop, tenement or dwelling, where the inspector finds evidence of unclean or unhealthy conditions, or infections or contagious diseases.

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