

# POWER

## *The Dynamic Force Behind Winnipeg's Growth*

*Engineers Rapidly Harnessing Giant  
Water Powers on Winnipeg River*



HE City of Winnipeg is with justice termed "The Gateway of the Great West," for it stands on the threshold of the vast and fertile plains of mid-Western Canada. The great expanse of forest, lake and stream to the East does not lend itself to the support of a large population, consequently, with the exception of Port Arthur and Fort William, which owe their growth to their position as ports at the head of the Great Lakes, Winnipeg is the first city of any magnitude for upwards of 1,000 miles on the journey West from Toronto and Montreal. This fact alone has made Winnipeg the logical distributing point whence products from the East begin to scatter to their ultimate destinations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and to which the agricultural products of the prairies converge en route to the Eastern market.

Thus Winnipeg was ensured of a certain growth as a distributing centre in virtue of its geographical position alone, and railway lines have sought it not only from East and West but from the South, where, not far distant, lie the great middle Western industrial centres of the United States.

Had geographical position nothing else to offer, Winnipeg must have remained a city of moderate size, able to support only those engaged in transportation, distribution and the smaller manufacturing industries, the long distance from sources of coal supply would have made it impossible to compete with Eastern Canada and the United States as a large scale manufacturing centre.

Fortunately, however, the "Gateway" showed opportunities in both directions and nature provided the one thing lacking, namely power, in lavish quantities. A short distance to the northeast, the Winnipeg River, collecting the waters from 55,000 square miles of lake and forest, flows over a series of magnificent waterfalls on its journey to Lake Winnipeg, and not only supplies all the city's needs for motive power, but can supply them for years to come.

The vast power possibilities of the Winnipeg River were early recognized by the Federal authorities, and in the early summer of 1911 a systematic and comprehensive investigation of the entire power reach was commenced by the Dominion Water Power Branch of the Department of the Interior. These investigations included the establishment of gauging stations for obtaining reliable data concerning the amount of water available; these have since been maintained and added to; systematic surveys of the banks of the river with cross-sections and soundings wherever necessary and finally a very thorough study of the information secured with a view to designing a system of development