

# **Water-Powers**

## **OF**

### **Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

**I**N the report on "Water-Powers of Canada," published by the Commission of Conservation in 1911, the subject was treated in a fairly complete manner with regard to the eastern provinces, but the information covering the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia was admittedly very incomplete, and the Commission, then, decided to publish, later, more exhaustive reports on the water-powers of those portions of the Dominion which had not been treated in detail in the above mentioned publication.

The present report covers the portion of Canada embraced in the three Prairie Provinces together with certain portions of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. When the compilation of "Water-Powers of Canada" was undertaken the information respecting water-powers in the Prairie Provinces was very limited, and, except explorations by the Geological Survey, preliminary work of the Dominion Water Power branch and some scattered information available through the courtesy of consulting engineers or private corporations, little or no data relating to the subject were obtainable. This lack of information may be attributed to several causes, chief among which, possibly, is the relatively recent development of this portion of Canada; moreover, this development was more along agricultural than industrial lines, although water-power is useful to both; and, lastly, the importance of water-power resources has only been appreciated since the advent of high-tension transmission of electrical energy, coupled with the great industrial tendency to replace hand labour by mechanical energy.

The Dominion Government controls the water resources of the Prairie Provinces and, during the past three or four years, has been particularly active in investigating them. The Water Power branch of the Department of the Interior administers the water-powers which come under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government, and has not confined itself to the regulation and supervision of proposed developments. In the territory under its jurisdiction it has sent out field parties to investigate many of the water-powers and to