

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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Canada with a small population and insufficient capital has nevertheless held a foremost position in the products of the Forest and the Fisheries, as well as in the quality of those cereals and fruits which attain their highest development in a northern latitude. In live stock she has not suffered by comparison with any other portion of this continent, while in dairy products she is pre-eminent. If she has not, until recently, made much progress in mineral development, it has been more from want of money than of mines. If she has been long in attaining a position as a manufacturing country, it is accounted for by the fiscal and financial conditions of a sparsely settled country, the smallness of a home market, and the competition of greater capital and out-put, and therefore cheaper production elsewhere.

Amongst the many partially developed resources of Canada, perhaps there is none more widespread or more far reaching in future results than her unsurpassed Water Power. The value of this has been enormously enhanced, first by the expansion of the wood pulp manufacture, and the introduction of electro-chemical and metallurgical industries for which this country possesses the raw material; and, more recently, in the revolution which has been brought about by success in transmitting the energy of water falls from remote and inconvenient positions to those where the work is to be done.

Electrical transmission brings the power to the work, and when the prime mover is water, we have the cheapest power, and perhaps nearest approach to perpetual motion which it is possible to obtain;—one which is always “on tap,” and, like gravity, maintained without cost and applied without delay.

An examination of any good map of our broad Dominion reveals, as its most striking feature, an extraordinary wealth and remarkably uninterrupted succession of lakes and rivers, suggestive of ample rainfall, the first great requisite in the occupation of any country. This feature would be still more impressive if all the waters could be shown on the map. Over large areas only the more important rivers have been explored and delineated; while in the surveyed districts many are necessarily omitted to leave room for other information to be given.