

The Extension of Big Chute Generating Station

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HIS extension completes the power development at this site, therefore it might be in order to give a brief history of this development from its commencement.

In the fall of 1900 the Simcoe Railway and Power Company commenced a development on the Severn River at Big Chute, which is situated about nine miles up from the point where the Severn River empties into Georgian Bay (see map). By May, 1911, three 900-horsepower units were installed ready for operation. The Simcoe Railway and Power Company transmitted power at 22,000 volts to their substation at Midland. From this station it was distributed at 2,300 volts to the Municipality of Midland. This company also proposed to distribute power to any place in the Simcoe County and Muskoka District.

In 1911 the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario contracted to take power from the Simcoe Railway and Power Company, and in May, 1911, power was delivered to Midland, and in November to Penetang.

In October, 1911, the load on this Big Chute Generating Station was 350-horsepower; in September, 1912, 550-horsepower. In 1913 the num-

ber of municipalities supplied by the Commission increased from two to seven: besides Midland and Penetang, there were Collingwood, Barrie, Coldwater, Elmvale and Stayner. The demand in October, 1913, was 1,233-horsepower.

Up to 1914 the Simcoe Railway and Power Company owned the Big Chute Generating Station, the transmission lines to Midland and the Midland station, also a station and distribution system in Victoria Harbor, whereas the Hydro-Electric Power Commission owned the remaining transmission lines and stations. In 1914 the Hydro-Electric Power Commission purchased the Simcoe Railway and Power Company, and first operated same on July 1st.

In 1915 Waubauskene and Port McNicoll distributing stations were installed and fed from this system. In 1916 Port McNicoll (Canadian Pacific Railway) and Camp Borden Stations were added. In 1918 Alliston, Beeton, Bradford, Cookstown, Thornton and Tottenham were included in the municipalities fed from this system (see Severn System map). In December, 1918, the power demand on this Severn System was 6,350-horsepower, of which 3,700-horsepower was supplied by the Big Chute Station and the remaining