

digious prodigality over the entire surface of our territory these hitherto unsuspected forces, found itself thus powerfully seconded, and soon throughout the whole country, immense workshops were seen to arise, set in motion by threads of water escaping from the summit of a mountain or coming from a rushing stream.

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Taking into account the extent of the country, certain parts of which are not yet sufficiently explored, it has not yet been possible to determine with exactness either the value or the capacity of the united force of all the water-powers of Canada. We have, however, data sufficiently complete to enable us to boldly assert that there is not another country in the world, which commands so large a body of acting forces. A map has only to be consulted to prove this. While in the United States, great rivers like the Mississippi, the Missouri and the Ohio possess no water-powers because they flow over beds that are almost uniform, here, in Canada, it is just the contrary. The St. Lawrence and its tributaries, as well as most of our rivers, from east to west, are broken by rapids and imposing cataracts. From the Straits of Belle-Isle to Montreal and thence, ascending the St. Lawrence, the tributaries of the St. Lawrence and those of the Ottawa, descending through the region of the Laurentian Mountains, are at an elevation of 1,000 to 1,800 feet above the level of the sea and, in many cases, these rivers have their principal falls quite close to their mouths.

It is calculated that the St. Lawrence, taken as a whole, has a capacity of 10,000,000 horse-power.

Some years ago, the Ottawa Board of Trade organized an exploration to ascertain the capacity of the water-powers of the Ottawa river and its affluents. This exploration demonstrated that, within a radius of 50 miles, the Ottawa river and its tributaries could alone supply a force equal to nearly 900,000 horse-power. This work was pushed further and the calculations of Mr. Surtees, civil engineer, finally established the respective force of most of the tributaries of the great river and of the Ottawa river itself. These calculations make a table as instructive as it is eloquent :