

value which could be obtained from our water-power development were it utilized to its full capacity. We boast of the wonderful wheat crop of our great and ever-expanding West, but in our provincial waterfalls we have a Golconda capable of producing each and every year, for all time, an amount of power worth nearly double the present annual value of our western wheat crop, enormous as that now appears to us.

Present Saving to the Province.

The figures given above are, as already stated, based upon the full development of our water powers, and the objection may be raised that at the present time but very few of them are developed, and that therefore the estimate of the amount of power which may be obtained from them is merely theoretical and of little practical value.

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As I have already pointed out, the greater part of the power at present used in this province is generated from steam, produced from coal imported from the United States at an annual cost of over \$16,000,000 in good Canadian money.

Even if the utilization of all of our water-powers could not produce more electric power than would offset this \$16,000,000 now paid for steam coal, would it not be a wise as well as a patriotic policy to try to keep this vast amount of money in Canada, where it would be used for the purpose of paying our own artisans and engineers in order to utilize water powers which would otherwise go to waste, instead of sending it to swell the pay roll of United States coal miners or fill the coffers of the coal barons of that country?

As I have already pointed out, the potentialities of our provincial water-powers are so great as to eventually effect a saving ten times larger than our present coal

consumption, large as that may look to us just now.

In my opinion, the day is not far distant when hydro-electric energy will be generally used throughout this province for every purpose for which power is required. Even our present steam railways will be transformed into electric roads, and thus become the largest customers for hydro-electric power instead of being the largest consumers of imported coal, as they are at present.

Power Must Be Publicly Owned.

The effect upon the province of Ontario when the government's policy of cheap hydro-electric power becomes fully realized, must be very beneficial to the great mass of our citizens. Not only will they have cheaper light for domestic and public use, cheaper water, cheaper street car service, purer and healthier air in their dwelling places and workshops, but we will have cheaper power for our manufacturers, which will mean more work and higher wages for our artisans.

The future of Ontario as a manufacturing province is largely bound up with the power question. If we are to maintain our present position as the manufacturing centre of the Dominion, let alone improve our lead on the other provinces in this respect, we must not only utilize our splendid water-powers to their utmost capacity, but we must also take full advantage of the Government's policy of publicly-owned power, power owned by the people and distributed amongst them at as near its actual cost as possible.

The importance and value of our great water-powers is strikingly emphasized by the efforts that promoters and monopolists are making to secure them before the people become alive to their real value and importance.

On every hand, from the St. Lawrence to the extreme west of Ontario, we find groups of capitalists endeavoring to get their grip upon