

Ontario, it is to be noted, imports its coal from the United States. Last year the quantity imported was:

Bituminous.....	6,635,388 tons
Anthracite	2,035,117 tons
Total.....	8,670,505 tons

This includes the quantity brought in through Port Arthur and Fort William for western use. The supply of coal in the United States is being used up with tremendous rapidity, and though, in our generation, there is no possibility of exhaustion, there is not only the possibility, but the certainty, that increasing scarcity and expense in production will greatly enhance the cost to our consumers within a very few years.

Upon the subject of water-power development, we, in Canada, are distinctly behind the times. It may be surprising to some, as it was to me, to find that little Switzerland to-day leads the world in the development of water-powers, both in regard to advanced legislation on the subject, and also, though, perhaps not so decidedly, in regard to the economical and successful development and use of power. In an interesting and able publication by Mr. Charles Mitchell, C.E., of Toronto, containing an account of his study of European installations, I find the following:—

“In that branch of engineering science devoted to the development of hydraulic works and equipment for the generation of power, European engineers undoubtedly lead.”

And again, he says that:—

“Viewed from the hydro-electric standpoint of engineering, Switzerland undoubtedly has led all other countries, and it is there the engineer must go, even to-day, to obtain ideas as far ahead of American as are the European fashions.”

If this is the verdict of the engineer, the verdict of the lawyer must be equally decisive in favor of the pre-eminence of Switzerland. Her people found themselves, like Ontario, paying enormous tribute to foreign countries for coal; they found that their water-powers were hampered in their development and in danger of being monopolized by defective laws. They went to the root of the matter; had it fully and carefully investigated by a commission of jurists and experts, and submitted a constitutional amendment which was ratified by referendum, and thus placed the law upon a workable and satisfactory basis.