

neighborhood of Vancouver or Prince Rupert where the plants could be erected on excellent water front sites at the minimum of expense, would add to the incentive already existing to develop further the great copper mines of the province. The application, too, of electric power in dealing with the rich zinc, lead and magnetic ores obviously offer a great field of expansion.

EXISTING WATER POWER PLANTS IN PROVINCE

THE WEST KOOTENAY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY, LIMITED POWER DEVELOPMENTS ON THE KOOTENAY AND KETTLE RIVERS

IN 1897, the Kootenay Power & Light Company commenced the construction of a hydro-electric plant at Lower Bonnington Falls. At that time a small smelter was in operation at Trail, and mining work was in progress at Rossland, 32 miles from the site of the proposed hydro-electric plant, but the total amount of energy utilized at Trail and Rossland did not exceed 1,000 H.P. The proposed hydro-electric plant, now known as Bonnington Falls Plant No. 1, was constructed with a capacity of 4,000 H.P., and at a later date Bonnington Falls Plant No. 2 was built and units aggregating 16,000 H.P. were installed in order to provide for the increased load which developed far in excess of the demand anticipated when Plant No. 1 was built.

In the year 1907, the load on the system had still further increased, particularly in the "Boundary Country", and in order to provide adequate service to consumers in this district, the 3,000 H.P. plant of the Cascade Water Power & Light Company was taken over by the Kootenay Power & Light Company.

In 1907, the gold and copper mining industry in the Kootenay Country was practically undeveloped and the load at Rossland was only about 600 H.P. To-day light and power is being supplied to the many mining, smelting and refining companies near Rossland, the connected load in this vicinity alone having increased from 600 H.P. to 6,200 H.P. This great development of the mining and allied industries has been greatly assisted by the supply of power at reasonable rates by the Kootenay Power & Light Company. At the present time, the Company has installed hydro-electric units aggregating 23,000 H.P., with provision in No. 2 Power House of space for two additional units.

The West Kootenay Power and Light Company Limited, owns and operates three hydro-electric generating plants on the Kootenay and Kettle Rivers. These are the largest and most important developments in the interior of British Columbia, and furnish power and light to the cities of Trail, Rossland, Grand Forks, Phoenix, Greenwood, Boundary Falls, and other municipalities within the radius of their transmission lines.