
Water Powers of Canada

Dean river (also called Salmon river) rises in the Coast range near the headwaters of the Blackwater and Nechaco. Between the confluence with the Iltsayouco and the mouth, it falls 2,321 feet in 46 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles; between "Salmon House," at the 24th mile, and the "3rd crossing," quarter of a mile below, it descends 181 feet.

The Kemano river empties into Gardner inlet. Between Siffleur lake and tidewater, 18 miles, it falls 3,753 feet. Between the 9th and 12th miles from the mouth it descends 1,035 feet; of this descent, 214 feet occur in 1,000 feet horizontal.

Other rivers, south of the Skeena, that are known to contain valuable powers but for which no details are available, are: the Southgate, falling into Bute inlet; the Klinaklini, into Bute inlet; the Owikano, into Rivers inlet; the Kitlope, into Gardner canal; and the Kitimat into Douglas channel.

The Skeena river drains an area of 19,300 square miles and is 335 miles long. Between Hazelton and its mouth it has a fall of 725 feet but the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway will probably prevent damming it to raise the water to any considerable height. The Babine river, a tributary, drains Babine lake, which has an area of 306 square miles. Between the lake and Kitkargas village, a distance of about 40 miles, it falls 1,000 feet.

Other important streams are: the Nass draining 7,400 square miles and 205 miles long; the Stikine, with a drainage basin 20,300 square miles in area, and 355 miles long, and the Taku, draining 7,600 square miles.

The Peace River drains the north-eastern portion of British Columbia. Between the junction of the Finlay and Parsnip—where it takes the name "Peace"—and the eastern boundary of the Province, there are no water powers. Its south branch, the Parsnip is 145 miles long. Below the confluence of McLeod river, there are no rapids in the Parsnip. Above the McLeod, it is unsurveyed except the rough survey made by Mackenzie, in 1793. Some of its eastern tributaries, such as the Misinchinca, are torrential streams carrying a good flow of water. The Nation river, another tributary, is unexplored.

The north branch of the Peace—the Finlay—is 250 miles long. It ranges in width from 90 feet where it issues from the Fishing lakes, to 900 feet near its mouth. Its navigation, for 200 miles above its mouth, with the exception of Deserter canyon, is easy. Deserter canyon is situated about 90 miles above the mouth; is about half a mile long and, in the narrowest place, scarcely exceeds a hundred feet in width. The walls at the lower end are high. Where the Finlay flows through the Long canyon, above its confluence with the Tochieca, it is a succession of canyons, riffles and rapids, for many miles. The Long canyon is five miles long. The river, in places, is narrowed to less than 100 feet in width and contains numerous wild rapids. The total depth of the gorge, at the upper end exceeds 600 feet.

The Omincca, or south branch of the Finlay, is by far the largest tributary of the latter. The Black canyon, five miles from its mouth, is about half a mile in length and varies in width from one hundred to two hundred feet. Its walls are usually vertical and, in places, exceed 150 feet in height. Six miles above the mouth of the Oslinca, the Omincca flows through the Little canyon. Between the mouth and quiet water nine miles above Little canyon, the river falls 425 feet in a distance of 35 miles, an exceptionally high grade for a river of this size.