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## THE JORDAN RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF THE VANCOUVER ISLAND POWER COMPANY.

The Jordan River Development of the Vancouver Island Power Company, Limited, is an exceedingly interesting one from many points of view. The plant itself is not a very large one, but the difficulties that were met with and overcome in securing the necessary data, and afterwards, in installing the plant, were exceptional.

The preliminary investigations were carried on in what was practically virgin forest, and the engineers had practically no data to hand to enable them to decide where the development should be located. The powerhouse itself is located in almost inaccessible country, and the difficulties of getting a construction plant on the ground, together with the actual construction of the plant, will, therefore, be appreciated. The first section of a description of the Jordan River Development appears in this issue of *The Canadian Engineer*. The way the necessary data was compiled, and the constructive details were worked out, reads most interestingly. The engineers in charge of this work are to be congratulated for the ingenuity and perseverance shown throughout the investigation and the actual construction.

## THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION AND SEWAGE POLLUTION OF BOUNDARY WATERS.

As has been noted in these columns from time to time, the International Joint Commission is taking up, under instructions from the several governments, an enquiry into the pollution of international boundary waters. At the Washington session on November 18th, Secretary of State Knox directed that, "The enquiry should be confined to cases of pollution on one side of the boundary which extend to and affect the other side." This statement very much limits what was thought to be the original scope of the enquiry. It would appear from this statement that investigation of pollution would be restricted to the narrow waters of the St. Mary's River, Mackinac Strait, the St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers. Thus, the cities of the United States, which are located on the Great Lakes, and which are at present polluting lake waters, do not come within the sphere of investigation of the Commission.

It would appear that the above limited meaning of what is meant by sewage pollution will greatly impair the usefulness of the investigation. This construction is placed on the enquiry by the United States Branch of the International Joint Commission. It is not believed, however, that the Canadian Branch will assent to the above meaning. While it is true that it is highly desirable to investigate the relationship of cities, such as Buffalo and Detroit, to the question of sewage pollution, it is just as desirable that cities like Rochester and Cleveland should also come within the meaning of the enquiry.

If this investigation is to serve the best interests of Canada and the United States, it is highly desirable that the scope should be understood to include all cities and municipalities using international waters as a means of sewage disposal. With the limited construction placed upon the question, it would be impossible for the Commission to consider pollution of international boundary waters from boat traffic, and this would be a serious limitation.