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POWER FOR EASTERN ONTARIO.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission has now issued its second report. Its first report dealt with the transmission of power to the southern and western parts of Ontario; this one with the River Trent or eastern section of the Province. It estimates that on the Moira River and its tributaries, and on the upper and lower Trent, about 65,675 horse-power can be obtained, of which some 17,015 horse-power has been developed already. On the lower Trent, the Commission figures that there are five powers capable of being fully developed for long-distance transmission. These are Healey's Falls, 8,000 horse-power; Middle Falls, 5,200 horse-power; Ranney's Falls, 6,100 horse-power; rapids above Glen Millar and rapids above Trenton, 3,200 horse-power each, a total dry-weather capacity of 25,600 horse-power. To insure economy a combined development would be necessary.

From these five powers energy might be transmitted from Healey's Falls to Brighton and to Whitby on the west and Kingston on the east. Oshawa and Kingston are selected by the Commission as typical points and the charges and costs figured out for these municipalities. Oshawa drawing from Healey's Falls with a full load of 1,825 horse-power, at a power house cost of \$13.35, would pay \$21.52 at sub-station and \$26.30 at customers'. At half load of 912 horse-power the costs are figured at \$12.87, \$27.29 and \$37.06 respectively. At Kingston, for which the stepdown and sub-station losses are slightly higher, the rate at sub-station for full load of 2,750 horse-power is \$21.43 and \$26.15 at customers'. The half load rates are \$26.85 and \$36.29. These figures include all necessary construction, transmission lines, rights of way charges and other expenses.

The cost of developing the five larger falls is estimated at \$2,295,000, or \$84.38 per horse-power at Healey's Falls, \$91.37 for Middle Falls, \$69.67 for Ranney's Falls, \$109.38 for the rapids above Glen Millar, and \$115.63 for those above Trenton.

A private right of way is provided for in the estimates, 66 feet wide, from Healey's Falls to Brighton, and of a varying width along the Grand Trunk Railway from this point to Whitby on the west and to Kingston on the east. The following line construction is provided for:—Double-circuit steel towers from the power-house to Brighton, single-circuit steel towers from Brighton to Deseronto Junction (the name given to the point where the Deseronto and Maribank lines branch off), and high-class wood pole construction from Deseronto Junction to Kingston, and from Brighton to Whitby.

As the larger proportion of power sold is required for ten hours per day only, an arrangement of "limited hour contracts" is proposed for the winter, whereby certain motor users will agree to shut down between 4.30 and 6 p.m., so as to allow the full power to be utilized for lighting purposes.

We may state that as was the case with the Commissioner's first report, dealing with western and southern Ontario, its statements and calculations have not been allowed to go unchallenged. A correspondent of the "Globe" writes to say that the Commissioners have scarcely been in a position to deal accurately with the Trenton water-powers, and with those above that place. He states that during the past winter the water-supply has been abnormally good, and that if observation were to be made during the whole year, some very different calculations would have to be made, and widely different conclusions must be arrived at. There is very great variation between the maximum and minimum flow of the river, and this has not been allowed for. As a matter of fact, although the report places the amount of water-power available at Trenton at 2,500 horse-power, there are already two users of the power to the extent of 900 horse, and these users, we are told, have been put frequently to so much inconvenience by the insufficiency of the water supply that they are both putting in extensive steam plants to supplement the power they obtain from this source.