

## ST. MAURICE REGION

The territory it covers with regard to outside trade is divided into two parts : the settled part and the forest part. The settled part, whose natural centre is the city of Three Rivers on the St. Lawrence, contains a farming population of about 300,000 inhabitants.

The forest part covers an area of over 30,000 square miles. This territory contains, throughout its extent, forests of pine, white spruce, cedar and hard-wood trees, sufficient to form an inexhaustible source of supply to the outside trade. There is also an abundance of iron, mica, limestone, granite and other mining products.

But by far the most important point, and that which deserves to have public attention called to it, is that nature has distributed throughout this region, side by side with the raw material, water-powers of a capacity and facility of utilization beyond the ordinary.

Let us note first of all that the St. Maurice river, which waters the whole of that vast territory, is one of the largest tributaries of the River St. Lawrence. It flows into it near Three Rivers and takes its rise on the water-shed dividing the St. Lawrence slope from that of Hudson's Bay. Its waters are rapidly swelled by various rivers it meets on its way and, barely a few leagues from its source, it has become a majestic river navigable for quite a long distance.

The St. Maurice flows from west to east. Its course, about 350 miles long, runs generally through a mountainous region and is broken here and there by a series of cascades, the more important of which are the Shawinigan, La Tuque, Grand'Mère, the Rapide des Hêtres etc., all or nearly all of which are utilized for large manufactories.

The area of territory watered by the St. Maurice and its tributaries is 18,020 square miles and the greater portion is covered with forests of pine and spruce of great value.

**Rapide des Hêtres.**—We have mentioned this rapid as being one of the water-powers formed by the St. Maurice. It lies about half-way between Grand'Mère and Shawinigan, in the county of Champlain. Its length is about half a mile and its total fall 17 to 18 feet.

Mr. Gauvin, C. E., who inspected it in 1905, estimates its capacity at 7,000 horse-power.

**Shawinigan Falls.**—The famous Shawinigan Falls which have since 1897 become the property of the Shawinigan Lakes