

## INTRODUCTION

THE present age has been called by a prominent Engineer "The New Epoch," inaugurated by the manufacture of power, and it is certainly true, that the use of power is the great central pivot, around which every activity and industry swings to-day.

It is now well recognized that the most valuable resources of a country, are those which afford the means of manufacturing cheap power.

These resources are, falling water, the coal mine and the oil field.

Of these resources, falling water or water powers, stand out as being inexhaustible, and therefore one of the most valuable assets of any country. A time must come when the supply of coal and oil will become limited, and the best way to conserve these fuel supplies is to make use of our water powers in their stead.

Any country which possesses such large water powers as Canada, and especially the Province of Quebec, is destined to play a very important role among industrial nations, always deriving wealth and prosperity from such resources if developed with energy and foresight.

The opening up of our large resources, such as mines and forests, largely depends upon the cheap and bountiful supply of power, made possible by the development of our enormous quantities of falling waters.

The fast growing importance of the water powers of Quebec Province may be realized by reviewing a brief collection of facts regarding its natural resources and industrial facilities.

The Province of Quebec is situated in the eastern part of the Dominion of Canada. Bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and traversed through its entire length by the St. Lawrence River, it possesses all the advantages of both a maritime and an inland country. Being in the temperate zone the climate is highly favorable. Its superficial area is 351,873 square miles, being almost equal to France and Germany combined.

In 1911 the population of the Province of Quebec was 2,002,712, most of whom are concentrated in the districts surrounding Montreal, Three Rivers, and Quebec. More than half of the inhabitants practise mixed and dairy farming, the majority of the remainder being engaged in industrial pursuits.

There are immense forests, the area of timber limits leased being over 66,000 square miles, and the supply of hard woods, cedar, spruce and pine is almost inexhaustible.

The mineral resources of the Province are considerable. Its asbestos mines are the best and richest in the world, and gold, copper and iron are also extensively mined.

The principal manufactures are, shoes, textile goods, paper, railway equipment, bricks and cement.

Besides enjoying the services of both ocean and inland steamship lines, the manufacturing districts of Quebec Province are well served by various Railway Companies, and the number of miles of railways now totals more than 4,330, of which 300 miles are operated electrically.