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POWER is essential to our modern existence. Without it we should be back in the Middle Ages, candles and torches for lighting; hand labor for all purposes; land transportation restricted to that provided by human and animal agencies and water transportation to small sailing ships dependent upon the vagaries of the wind; communication limited to the slow means of locomotion at the disposal of the courier, in the absence of anything faster than horses; these would form some of the conditions under which we should live.



*Col. Sir Adam Beck, Kt., LL.D.,
Chairman, Hydro-Electric Power
Commission of Ontario.*

Within the last two hundred years scientific discoveries have given to the world the power inherent in fuels, viz: coal, gas and oil, and in falling water, in the varied forms of heat, light, chemical action, mechanical power and electricity.

It has been estimated that the total water powers of the world available for

use amount to approximately 100,000,000 horsepower, of which only about 17,000,000 has so far been developed.

The Dominion of Canada possesses approximately 20 per cent. of the world's total water power, and also possesses approximately the same per cent. of the world's water power already developed. The people of the Province of Ontario are particularly concerned in the development of water power for two outstanding reasons:

(1) There is no coal within the Province and the manufacturers must depend upon the importation of coal from the far East or from the far West of the Dominion, or receive their coal supply from the United States.

(2) The Province contains an abundant supply of water power aggregating in all 6,000,000 horsepower, of which approximately 800,000 horsepower has already been developed.

The first of these resources to be utilized by man was coal, but although this fuel is very widely distributed, and exists in immense quantities in various parts of the earth, there is no denying the fact that the supply will some day come to an end.

The supplies of oil and gas, like those of coal, are limited in quantity, and if used in too prodigal a fashion will be exhausted all too soon.

Our remaining important source of energy, water power, differs from the fuels in one important respect, in that there is no need to fear that continued use will reduce the supply available for future generations; hence, one of the best means of conserving the fuel supplies is to substitute the use of water power wherever this is practicable. This is what the municipalities of Ontario have done for themselves in a very eminent degree, with extremely satisfactory results.