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POWER PLANT PRACTICE.

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(To be read before the Mechanical Section, November 10th, 1910.)

One of the many problems with which a large corporation, such as a railway system, has to cope, is how to efficiently install, maintain, and operate its many plants. As they are not direct revenue producers like the locomotives or other rolling stock, but more of a means of maintaining the latter, it has been a study how to economically achieve the desired ends without exacting more attention from a motive power department than their proportionate value allows.

A description of the organization and methods found necessary to obtain efficient plants on the Canadian Pacific Railway system will be given in this paper. To show the importance of this branch of the service, it should be stated that on the Eastern Lines of the Company, i.e., from the Atlantic to Fort William, there are over 50 plants, consuming 126,000 tons of coal per annum. Any saving, therefore, in this one item alone is important, without regard to those possible in the other items which enter into the operating costs of all power plants.

The maintenance and operation of stationary plants in shops, roundhouses, elevators, and hotels come under the supervision of the electrical and power plant engineer, who is responsible for recommending the lines of correct design and operation, but is not actually in charge; the plants coming under the direct control of divisional officers or hotel managers.