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NOVA SCOTIA POWER COMMISSION

ALTHOUGH the sources of water power in the province of Nova Scotia are not large individually, the data collected by the Nova Scotia Power Commission and its consulting engineer show that they are of great capacity collectively. The topography of the province is particularly suitable to water power development. The interior is rocky and well forested, the lakes are numerous, and short rivers lead with rapid descents directly to the sea. Perhaps the greatest assets, however, are the very high precipitation—greater than anywhere else in Canada except at the Pacific coast—and the climate, which provides an exceptionally large part of the precipitation in rainfall and not snow.

In a very clear, complete and most valuable report recently presented to the commission by Brig.-Gen. Charles H. Mitchell, of Toronto, it is stated that the powers of Nova Scotia can be combined into groups and arranged to serve various parts of that province, and that a study of the possibilities of such grouping leads to a surprisingly gratifying conclusion as to the asset that the province has in its water powers.

The Nova Scotia Power Commission will undoubtedly become an immense factor in the industrial and economic welfare of Eastern Canada. It intends to develop its powers in isolated groups beginning with the St. Margaret Bay powers, which have been ingeniously grouped to supply Halifax with approximately 10,000 h.p., but foresight has been shown in planning these groups in such manner that they can later be joined electrically into one large system, covering a large part of the province. Several of these powers will be more or less developed, and probably interconnected, within a very few years. In the plans of the commission, no consideration is given to the distribution of the power after its delivery in Halifax on any other city, as it is wisely

assumed that the function of the provincial government enterprise ceases at the "low tension side" of the municipal receiving station, and that the delivery of the power to the consumers is a function of a municipal or private power corporation.

STRIKES IN CIVIC UTILITIES

IN view of the experiences that Montreal, Toronto and other Canadian cities have had with regard to strikes by employees of water works and other civic departments, there appears to be urgent necessity for provincial or Dominion legislation regulating the extent to which any union or other organization can be allowed to imperil the property, health and life of whole communities. In order to ascertain what, if any, legislation there may now be on the statute books that would tend to prevent unexpected and unjustified strikes of employees who are indispensable in the operation of civic utilities, *The Canadian Engineer* requested its solicitors to make a search and prepare a resumé of any existing laws that could be utilized in the interest of public safety should there be recurrences of such strikes. The solicitors' reply follows and shows how inapplicable and inadequate is the existing legislation and how necessary is the enactment of new statutes to deal with such affairs:—

"Referring further to your letter requesting information in regard to statutory prohibitions of strikes by municipal employees engaged in services which have a bearing on the health or safety of the community.

"With the exception of the Criminal Code, we have not been able to discover any statutes dealing with strikes by municipal employees as such, for the legislation of this sort and the orders-in-council during the war deal only with industrial strikes.

"In the Criminal Code there are some sections dealing more or less with the matters you mention. Section 499 of the Code is as follows:—

"Everyone is guilty of an offence punishable on indictment on summary conviction before two justices, and liable, on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars or to three months' imprisonment, with or without hard labor, who—

"(a) Wilfully breaks any contract made by him, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe, that the probable consequences of his so doing, either alone or in combination with others, will be to endanger human life, or to cause serious bodily injury, or to expose valuable property, whether real or personal, to destruction or serious injury; or

"(b) Being bound, agreeing or assuming, under any contract made by him with any municipal corporation or authority, or with any company, to supply any city or any other place, or any part thereof, with electric light or power, gas or water, wilfully breaks such contract, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe, that the probable consequences of his so doing, either alone or in combination with others, will be to deprive the inhabitants of that city or place, or part thereof, wholly or to a great extent, of their supply of power, light, gas or water. . . .

"It is not material whether any offence defined in this section is committed from malice conceived against the person, corporation, authority or company with which the contract is made or otherwise."

"The question here, of course, is whether the terms, power, light, gas or water, taken either singly or together, could be interpreted to extend to all public utilities. To get the exact interpretation of these words and the full extent of their application would require a detailed reading of case law on this section.

"In the Municipal Act, R.S.O. (1914), Cap. 192, Section 250, power is given to municipal councils to make such by-laws and regulations for the health, safety, morality and welfare of the inhabitants of the municipality as may be deemed expedient and are not contrary to law. Section 249 provides that the jurisdiction of the council shall be confined to the municipality which it represents. The penalties for violation of by-laws of a municipality as provided in Sec-