

"An examination of any good map of our broad Dominion reveals, as its most striking feature, an extraordinary wraithy and remarkably uninterrupted succession of lakes and rivers, suggestive of ample rainfall, the first great requisite in the occupation of any country. Over a length of several thousand miles, between Labrador and Alaska, and over a width of several hundred miles, there is an almost continuous distribution of lakes; lakelets and rivers; the lakes of varied outlines, dimensions and elevations above sea level, and many possessing facilities for the storage of their flood waters. In many places the outlet from the lake or the connection between a chain of lakes is a narrow cleft in rock where an inexpensive dam will hold back the water supplied by the winter's accumulation of snow."



From a Presidential address on the Water Powers of Canada before the Royal Society of Canada, in 1898-99, by the late T. C. Keefer, C.E., C.M.G., Honorary Member of the Institute, American Society and Canadian Society, of Civil Engineers; Past President of the American and Canadian Societies of Civil Engineers.