

ELECTRIC POWER

Canada occupies second place in the world's *per capita* production of electricity. The total electrical energy generated in Canada in 1971 amounted to 190 billion kwh. At the end of 1971, the total installed generating capacity exceeded 46 million kw.

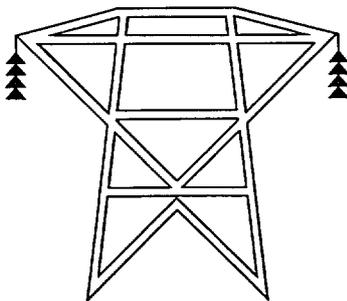
Seventy-four per cent of Canada's present power needs are met by energy generated from water-power. Since this resource is renewable, it is one of the nation's permanent natural assets. Canadians enjoy some of the lowest electricity rates in the world. The rate for domestic and farm service over the past five years has averaged 1.5 cents a kwh, compared to 2.4 cents a kwh in the United States.

The use of nuclear fuels for producing electric power has been the subject of intensive research in Canada and, in 1962, the country's first commercial nuclear electric power became available at Rolphton, Ontario. Coal, oil and natural gas are also used to produce thermal-electrical energy. In this domain, Ontario produces over 53 per cent of the total thermal-electric capacity of the nation.

In both developed and undeveloped water-power, Quebec is Canada's richest province. Quebec's entire hydro capacity is installed on rivers in the St. Lawrence River basin. This will change, however, with the projected power development in the northwestern region of the province. If present plans are completed, by the mid-1980s, 13 million kw will be harnessed from rivers flowing into James Bay. The projects on the Manicouagan and Outardes Rivers will be completed in 1976 and the seven new hydro plants will have a total installed capacity of 5.5 million kw.

One of the largest hydro-electric plants in the world is located at Churchill Falls in the Labrador region of Newfoundland. It will have a capacity of 5.2 million kw when completed in 1975.

The Nelson River in Manitoba will have 1.5 million kw in operation by 1976 and a further potential of 4 million kw may be developed by the mid-1980s.



The Columbia River Treaty, under which Canada and the United States have jointly developed the waters of the Columbia River, provide large new supplies of low-cost hydro-electric power and important flood-control benefits for both countries. Canada will receive half the power benefits accruing in the United States from the regulation of 15.5 million acre-feet of water stored in Canada.