



## THE WHITE COAL

THE WATER-POWERS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC



FEW months ago, an European review, which ranks as an authority, *La Revue Minière*, of Paris, published statistics of the white coal in each country. The United States, France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, in brief, nearly all the regions of globe were embraced. Alone, of Canada, there was not a solitary word.

It is true that not long before that an eminent French engineer, Mr. Fabrègues, had written: "On the day when all the coal on the earth shall have been consumed by our machines, Canada will be mistress of the world. Like the rest, the appreciation must have escaped the notice of the *Revue Minière*, which is usually well informed. Such an oversight naturally provoked some surprise and one of our fellow countrymen, rightfully annoyed at this silence of the European review, requested explanations. The reply he received was simply:

"Our reviews cannot speak of the Canadian waterfalls, for they do not exist as far as we are concerned. We cannot tabulate except on exact figures. There is no statement, even approximate, of the water-powers of Canada".

Must it be admitted that there is a grain of truth in this assertion? The public authorities have undoubtedly from time to time had measurements made of a pretty large number of our sources of energy; but all this is buried in official reports and mixed up with a host of other matters, which, for this reason, renders their consultation rather difficult. Moreover, the circulation of these official documents is somewhat limited and it is probable that they never or very rarely reach the great reviews which deal with such subjects.