

WESTERN ONTARIO POWER SCHEME.

Twelve Companies Are Controlled by Large Holding Corporation.

The Electric Power Company, Limited, which has recently been formed, is a holding company controlling the following different companies operating in that district of the Province of Ontario which lies east of Toronto, west of Kingston and north of Lake Ontario:

The Seymour Power & Electric Co., Limited.
The Peterborough Light & Power Co., Limited.
The Peterborough Radial Railway Co.
The Auburn Power Co., of Peterborough, Limited.
The Trenton Electric & Water Co., Limited.
The Sidney Electric Power Co., Limited.
The Nipissing Power Co., Limited.
Oshawa Electric Light Co., Limited.
The City Gas Co., of Oshawa, Limited.
Cobourg Utilities Corporation, Limited.
Northumberland Durham Power Co., Limited.
Central Ontario Power Co., Limited.

The directors of the company are as follows:—J. G. G. Kerry, president. A. B. Colville, secretary. Smith, Kerry & Chace, Toronto, designing, constructing and operating engineers.

Head office of the company is in Toronto; the general manager and general superintendent's offices are in Belleville.

The Electric Power Company control a number of the water powers along the route of the Trent Valley Canal from Burleigh Falls to Trenton.

Power From Five Points.

Hydro-electric power is being delivered from five points to the extent of about 10,000 h.p., and this is being distributed over about 130 miles of 44,000 volt transmission lines to seven different substations. Two other power houses having a combined capacity of 7,500 h.p. are now under construction and in the course of six months the length of transmission lines and the number of substations will be more than doubled by the completion of works now under construction. The ultimate development will reach in the neighborhood of 100,000 h.p. The district to be served will reach from Oshawa to Kingston and will cover an area of approximately 5,000 square miles. The present population of this area is approximately 250,000, and contains such cities and towns as Peterborough, Kingston, Belleville, Oshawa, Lindsay, Cobourg, Port Hope, Bowmanville, Trenton, Campbellford, Napanee, Deseronto, Madoc and Picton. Besides the general distribution of light and power in the various towns and cities in this district the Electric Power Company have secured many private customers who take large amounts of power; among these are the Canada Cement Company, who will drive their entire mills near Belleville by electric power on and after January 1st, 1911, from that date taking power from the Electric Power Company; and the Northumberland Pulp Company who have recently completed a mill at Campbellford where about 2,000 h.p. will be utilized.

Schedule of Rates.

Generally speaking, the rates vary from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per h.p. for 24 hours power, according to nature of business carried on by the various power users and their distance from the power plants.

Substations are now being constructed at Oshawa, Port Hope, Cobourg, Bowmanville, Brighton, Colborne, and other points, in order to furnish the entire light and power service in these various towns and supersede the old steam and water-driven plants now in operation at these places. Substations for similar purposes are already in operation at Belleville, Trenton, Stirling and Madoc.

The water powers on the Trent and Otonabee Rivers lie in three groups located as follows:

(1) Between Buckhorn Lake and Peterborough, a distance of twenty miles.

(2) Between Healy Falls and Bradley Bay, a distance of ten miles.

(3) Between Frankford and the Bay of Quinte, a distance of six miles.

The Electric Power Company having large holdings of water rights in each of these three groups will develop the various powers as warranted by the power market.

SECURITIES ALMOST ABSORBED.

London Financial Authority Says the Stock Exchange There is Nearly Bare of Canadian Securities—Credit of Maritime Provinces is Good.

The London Stock Exchange is almost bare of Canadian municipal securities, with the exception of one or two issues which have not yet been absorbed. This statement is made by Mr. K. N. Macfee, of the London financial firm of Messrs. K. N. Macfee and Company. London banks, capitalists and small investors, he says, when buying municipal bonds make careful enquiry as to the amount of indebtedness the municipality has already assumed, what the population is, and what percentage the borrowing is to the total assessed value of the town. Mr. Macfee has probably placed loans amounting to from thirty to forty million pounds since he went to London, and the total amount invested by the public of Great Britain in the municipal securities of the Dominion of Canada is very large, yet in a half a century a default on the part of a Canadian municipality is almost unknown.

Some Left With Underwriters.

Mr. Macfee thinks there will be much borrowing by Western Canadian cities this year. He has just completed a trip throughout the country, and thinks everything is in good shape, and that Canadian municipal bonds will be occupying a better position every year with the British investors, unless the municipalities want too much for what they agree to pay. Such a policy would have a depressing effect upon the general market in London. For instance, the city of Winnipeg issued their loan at 103, and while the Province of Manitoba intended to make an issue at 102, they had to go one more as the province could not sell their securities at a less figure than the capital of the province, so the issue was also made at 103, with the result that it was not well taken and the underwriters were for the time being left with a good deal on their hands. There is a feeling on the other side that there is a tendency on the part of the Canadian municipalities to issue a little too high."

Will Be Heavy Borrowing.

There will be a good number of western municipal loans put on the market within the next six months. The towns from Montreal to the Coast will want from thirty to fifty millions. A municipality, he went on to say, should not borrow more than from eight to ten per cent. on the assessed value of the town, for if this amount is exceeded the investors will become suspicious and the subscriptions would be sure to suffer. He further explained that this meant eight or ten per cent. after deduction for sinking fund and other loans made for productive purposes, such as waterworks, electric lighting and street cars.

Securities of Maritime Provinces.

The credit of the lower provinces, he says, is exceedingly good in London, their municipal bonds bringing as much as those of Ontario. Halifax and St. John bonds are on about the same basis as those of Hamilton and London. Montreal's credit, he says, is excellent, as well as that of Quebec, whose finances have been well managed in the opinion of English buyers for some years back. As for the securities of the small towns in Quebec, these municipalities are not so well known and the handling of their securities is consequently more difficult. He considers that the credit of all the provinces of the Dominion to be first-class, but Mr. Macfee drew attention to the fact that, according to the British Trustee Act, certain securities are specified as legal for trust investments, and while the Dominion and the States of the Australian Commonwealth are on this list, the Canadian provinces are not.

The Attorney-General of Saskatchewan will introduce a compensation bill, which will have embodied in it the principle that the workman who suffers from accident shall be assured of a certain amount of compensation without being obliged to find a remedy in the courts.