

Acquisition of Present Radials.

There seems to be harmonious recognition on the part of the steam railroad officials that your proposed radials will serve a purpose for which the present transportation lines are not designed, and as it is my understanding that there is at present under way negotiations on the part of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission to purchase certain radials in the Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara districts, inclusive of the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto road, granting that these properties can be acquired at reasonable figures, the Commission should be placed in a position to purchase them, for not to do so might lead to their development along lines which would be away from, rather than toward the plan which would serve the greatest number of people for the greatest good.

An inspection of a number of these radials indicates that by a moderate expenditure of money upon them, they could be made to serve the purpose for which they are designed in a much larger degree than they are now performing that duty, and at the same time permit the Commission to plan their future merging into the larger system proposed.

Conservation of Coal.

Now passing from the specific discussion of transportation to a more fundamental principle, I would like to touch upon a matter of prime importance, the economic nature of which will, in my judgment, have much to do with the future soundness of your civic and industrial situation. I refer

to an extension of the wonderfully sound and economic fabric that is being woven through the agency of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. Increased production is the only solution of the present world's distress, and Canada and the United States through co-operative effort, assisted by their strategic location, are in a position to contribute the most. The two most powerful agents are increased production and transportation. Canada has demonstrated to the world as to herself the results to be effected through the use of electricity as an agent of power. Power in the form of coal is maximum in bulk and minimum in efficiency. Power in the form of electricity is minimum in bulk and maximum in efficiency.

The Congress of the United States has passed a bill to appropriate money with which to investigate and report upon the proper method by which its larger industrial and railroad zones can be operated from a common electric transmission system. Canada has shown the way in this matter, for it is not being considered; it is being done. Your future expansion in transportation capacity should be effected through the use of electricity. Already the people of the States are awakened to the fact that their uneconomic use of coal must cease. In one zone alone, that between Washington and Boston, there is at present being wasted, due to an inadequate form of power generation and distribution, over thirty million tons of coal a year, representing at least one hundred and fifty million dollars per annum. The natural water power resources of this zone unfortunately