

ELECTRIC POWER

Canada occupies second place in the world's *per capita* production of electricity. The total electrical energy generated in Canada in 1967 amounted to 165 billion kwh. At the end of 1967, the total installed generating capacity exceeded 33 million kw.

Seventy-one 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 1.4 cents a kwh, compared to 2.2 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 41 per cent of the total.

In available water-power resources, Quebec is Canada's richest province and British Columbia is its second richest. Quebec is also first in the amount of water-power developed. Ontario is second and British Columbia third. It is interesting to note that Quebec's entire hydro capacity is installed on rivers in the St. Lawrence River basin.

The Beauharnois plant on the St. Lawrence River, which has a generating capacity in excess of 1.6 million kw, is Canada's largest plant. An ambitious project on the Manicouagan and Outardes Rivers in Quebec involves the harnessing of the two streams by the construction of a series of seven new hydro plants and the extension of two already in existence to provide a total of nearly 6 million kw. British Columbia is constructing a plant on the Peace River that will have a capacity of 2.3 million kw.

The Columbia River Treaty, under which Canada and the United States will jointly develop the waters of the Columbia River to provide large new supplies of

low-cost hydro-electric power and important flood-control benefits for both countries, was ratified in 1964. 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.

