

uses of man to the extent of nearly 20,000,000 pounds a year—although it is the lightest metal in existence. This metal was first produced for commercial purposes at Niagara and it has been well said by Mr. Stetson that if Niagara power had done nothing else than manufacture this metal, at a price that brings it into so many varied uses, the development of Niagara power would still have been a land mark in the advance of civilization.

To come down somewhat to details in regard to the advantages of this power for Ontario, I need only say that Ontario owns the northern shore of Lake Erie and the western bank of the Niagara River, and that Niagara power can be generated and distributed throughout all that portion of Ontario which lies between Toronto and Windsor at a cost less than power can be produced by steam. To what extent you will use it is for your manufacturers themselves to say. Of course power is not the only element in the cost of manufacture. Labor, raw material and transportation are each more important, I believe, than power as elements of cost, but the power is nevertheless a very important element. In ordinary manufactures I believe a saving of say one-half in the cost of power means a saving of from 5% to 15% in the cost of the finished product; in the electro-chemical industries such as aluminum, calcium carbide, carburundum, soda-ash, nitrogenous products, and the reduction of certain metals, a reduction of one-half in the price of power means a reduction of possibly 40% in the cost of the finished product. Certain industries of this last named class require the very cheapest power and can not stand the cost of transmitting it. For such industries special facilities and advantages are present in that portion of Ontario between the Welland Canal and the Niagara River, having the benefit of the lake navigation and five lines of trunk railroads and power at a price almost unrivaled for cheapness. In other industries such as agricultural implements, boots and shoes, hardware, textile fabrics, steel and iron works, the price of power is a less important factor and the business can stand the cost of transmission to the point where such industries are