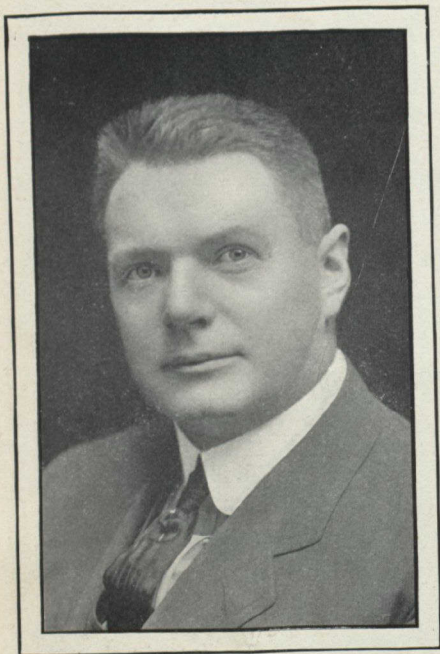


the town suddenly became a real electric city. Prominent American and Canadian manufacturers had on hand a fine display of the most modern of electrical devices, including power supplies, heating and cooking apparatus, all operated by the far-off source of power.



MR. P. W. SOTHMAN
ENGINEER OF THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION

If a man should calmly appropriate the air above the city of Toronto as a highway and sail merrily over the city, seated on an aggregation of twigs and canvas, with a sixty horse-power motor chugging along behind, the whole city would be startled. That is because the new and wonderful aeroplane is something which they can see and comprehend. It excites their imagination, and they go back to work with strained necks, thinking what a great creature man is anyway and how glad they are that they belong to the race. It is the same way with the locomotive or the traction car, but when it comes to using

the ether which permeates the same atmosphere in which our aviator is recklessly gliding; when it comes to utilising this something which exists in the atmosphere as a medium for the transportation of power, in the shape of wireless messages, or by sending it shooting through the ether, directed by hundreds of miles of wire to do the work of a city far away, then in some manner the very intangibility and wonderfulness of the achievement make it miss the imagination, which is so stimulated by the advent of the air-man.

When human brains accomplish something which materially reduces the cost of living, which makes necessities out of luxuries, and helps to lift the burden of drudgery from the back of a race, like the newly-invented cotton picker for the South, or the transportation of tremendous power at a great pressure for hundreds of miles for the North, then individual achievement becomes of direct benefit and of great importance to the race.

Mr. W. K. McNaught, M.P., member of the Hydro-Electric Commission, in a recent address, pointed out impressively the present and future importance of Ontario's supply of "white coal." Against Ontario's lack of coal and dependence on a foreign country is counted a multitude of large and small water-powers, aggregating 7,231,787 horse-power. The cash value of this energy, estimated on the basis of three dollars a ton for coal, would be \$180,000,000. The magnitude of this is appreciated by a comparison with the total crop output of Ontario, which for 1908 was \$164,077,282. An estimate of the saving that may be effected by Hydro-Electric development, as distinguished from the aggregate value of the development, is based on a difference of twenty dollars a year for every horse-power between the cost of coal and the cost of water-power. This estimate gives \$60,000,000 as the possible aggregate annual saving.