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W. W. CORY, Esq., C.M.G.,
Deputy Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Canada.

SIR,—The people of the province of Manitoba have a keen interest in the important economic problems now brought so forcibly to the attention of the Canadian people as a result of "the conservation movement." That interest is particularly manifested at this time because probably no province in the Dominion is endowed with conditions so favourable and opportunities so promising for the early accomplishment of material progress from practical and sane conservation of one of its most valuable natural resources.

Water is practically the only natural resource within the province for the development of power, that great and fundamental requisite for the prosperity and comfort of a civilized community. This condition is compensated for by the fact that in addition to the existence of an abundance of water, the general topography and the forest cover of a large portion of the province is naturally favourable for the establishment of hydraulic power developments, and also for the construction of storage reservoirs for flow regulation.

Historically considered, the utilization of our power resources has passed through three distinct phases. The first pertained to the production of power directly and from natural sources as water and wind, and its use was necessarily limited to their location. Early manufacturing communities were consequently grouped about easily available water power sites. This phase might be called the water power period in manufacturing industries.

The second phase was characterized by the gradual development of the steam engine which rendered possible the utilization of fuel as a source of power, and at locations where it was required. During this period the development of coal mines and the rapid extension of railway systems imparted a tremendous stimulus to commercial and industrial enterprise. Proximity of water powers was no longer the controlling factor, and industrial communities were established wherever availability of raw material, labour, transportation facilities, markets and fuel power would allow.

The third phase of power development in this country synchronizes with the advancement of the art of high voltage transmission which permits the development of power generated by water or by steam at the most convenient and economical points, and its transmission many miles away to the desired location of use, in a form adapted to a great variety and convenience of use.

This later phase of development and use of power has called for a re-appraisal of all sources from which power is derived. The size of the power plant is no longer limited to requirements of any particular purpose or use, but the power for entire communities, and for an infinite variety of use, civil and commercial, can be supplied from a single station or power site many miles distant.