

THE RELATION BETWEEN WATER-POWERS AND FORESTS.

CECIL B. SMITH, C.E., CHAIRMAN, TEMISCAMING RAILWAY
COMMISSION.

CANADA is well supplied with coal, both in its extreme Eastern and Western Provinces, but over an area extending for three thousand miles from New Brunswick to the foothills of the Rockies, and from the United States boundary as far Northward as we have knowledge of a definite nature, there are no coal measures of importance that have yet been discovered; and whilst this deficiency is not an absolutely vital one, owing to the abundance of coal in the neighbouring United States, yet it is of great economic importance, and has been a large factor in retarding manufacturing in this country.

Now that wood for fuel has become scarce and expensive in many localities, there is a double drain on the pockets of our people, and a continually increasing stream of money is flowing across our Southern border to purchase coal for heating and power purposes.

Until quite recently this had not appeared very important because wood, being plentiful, was largely and often wastefully used for fuel and power, and because manufacturing was not carried on extensively, and therefore the power problem did not loom large in the public view. However, the last ten years have worked many changes, and we are now face to face with a condition and not a theory.

Street and suburban railways are operated by electricity; Cities and towns demand electric lighting; manufactures are increasing by leaps and bounds, and more and more coal continues to pour over our frontier to meet our ever growing demand for power.

The natural query is How and To what extent can this unfortunate economic condition be improved upon, and what is the proper channel through which the desired end can best be accomplished?

The direct use of water-power for pumping and grinding is embedded in history, and doubtless such uses will continue to form an important factor in daily life for generations to come; but, excepting in special cases, these uses will be and are, con-