
Water Powers of Canada

The proposed Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company's branch line in the Okanagan will deliver all construction material at the site of the proposed plant; climatic conditions are peculiarly favorable for rapid and economical construction; while a prosperous producing district of British Columbia eagerly awaits the distribution of cheap light and power.

Among other rivers that may be referred to is Cayoosh Creek, which empties into the Fraser opposite Lillooet village. Between Anderson and Seton lakes, it falls 58 feet in four miles, and between Seton lake and the Fraser there is a descent of 134 feet in seven miles. Bridge river is a considerable tributary and drains a portion of the Coast range to the north of Cayoosh creek. By driving a tunnel from the valley of the latter, a head of 1,500 feet could be obtained.

The Chilcotin river drains an area of 7,500 square miles and is 145 miles long. Between Puntzee lake in its upper waters, and the mouth, it falls 1,750 feet. Its south branch, the Chilko, falls about 2,400 feet between Chilko lake and the Fraser. As Chilko lake is about 50 miles long and from four to five miles wide, there is excellent storage available.

The Quesnel river drains the southern portion of the Cariboo mountains. Between Quesnel lake and the mouth it falls 350 feet. Between Cariboo lake and the Fraser, its north branch falls 650 feet. Quesnel lake, 60 miles long and three miles wide, would provide excellent storage.

The Blackwater river drains an area of 5,600 square miles and 140 miles long. It falls about 1,700 feet between Tsacha lake—an expansion—and the Fraser.

The Nechaco drains an area of 15,700 square miles and is 255 miles long. Between Ootsabunkut lake and the Fraser, it falls 860 feet, of which 82 feet is in the short stretch between Ootsabunkut and Nataalkuz lakes. Its north branch, the Stuart, is 220 miles long. The Nechaco basin contains a number of large lakes, including Ootsabunkut 40 miles long, Cheslatta 25, Francois 60, and Fraser 12 miles; also Stuart lake with an area of 221 square miles, and Tacla 135 square miles.

On the north fork of the Fraser, about 35 miles from its confluence with the main stream, there is a fall 80 feet high.

The Columbia river has a total length of 1,150 miles, of which 465 miles are in Canada. It drains, in Canada, an area of 39,300 square miles. It rises in Upper Columbia lake in the great "Inter-montane" valley between the Rockies and the Selkirks. From the lake, it flows northward to latitude 52°, turns westward at the "Big bend" to flow round the north end of the Selkirks, then flows southward through the valley between the Gold range and the Selkirks. Above Golden, it is a sluggish, navigable stream and, therefore, not available as a source of power. The tributaries that fall in from the east are small mountain torrents of little value from a power standpoint. The Dutch, Toby, Salmon and Spillimacheen are important tributaries with a large low-water discharge from the glaciers and snow-fields of the Selkirks. The Beaver, a western tributary and the Kicking Horse, an eastern branch, carry a large volume of water, but owing to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway along their banks, economic development on a large scale might be difficult. The Blaeberry is an important stream and falls nearly 2,000 feet between its source