



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 58/2 HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROGRESS IN CANADA, 1957

A bulletin released December 31, 1957, by Mr. Alvin Hamilton, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Construction of hydro-electric plants in Canada continued to accelerate during 1957 as a result of increasing power demands. The total of 1,501,560 hp. of new capacity added during the year represents the second highest annual increase to date. Other installations currently under construction are expected to add about 2,200,000 hp. of new capacity during 1958 and more than 4,300,000 hp. in the succeeding few years. The greatest increases to individual plant capacities during 1957 occurred at the Bersimis I plant of the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission and at the Kermano-Kitimat plant of the Aluminum Company of Canada, Limited, each of which brought into operation 300,000 hp. of new capacity. In addition, there are several sites with large potential capacities, which are currently under investigation and on which it is probable that development will be undertaken within a few years time. The total installed capacity of water-power plants in Canada is now listed at 19,871,008 hp. which, however, represents less than 28% of total resources.

In addition to hydro-electric developments, the building of new thermal-electric plants and extensions was increasing in some areas of the country; the construction of main transmission lines, distribution lines and substation capacity also proceeded vigorously during the year. A review of the year's activities in hydro-electric and thermal-electric construction and in distribution facilities, both by utilities and by industrial establishments, is given below by provinces.

Copies of this annual bulletin may be obtained free of charge from the Director, Water Resources Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa.

British Columbia

Hydro-electric construction was very active in British Columbia where the total of 607,500 hp. of new capacity installed