pression, and for lighting and municipal purposes. The city of Nelson operates a municipal plant on the opposite side of the river.

Mackenzie Basin—The drainage area of this basin is nearly 700,000 square miles. The Athabaska and Peace rivers unite to form the great Mackenzie, which presents a few power possibilities, although it flows to the Arctic in an almost even grade. They, however, admit of navigation, with interruptions at Grand rapids and at Fort Smith rapids, from Athabaska Landing to the Arctic, a distance equivalent to that from Winnipeg to Halifax. An idea of the coming development of this great basin may be had from the fact that a flour mill has, for years, been operated on the Peace.

The prairie rivers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta drain nearly a million miles of territory—that is, twice the drainage area of the St. Lawrence—through two outlets, the Nelson and the Mackenzie rivers. It is rather a fortunate circumstance that the precipitation is not as great as that in the east, and that the area is not covered with a dense timber, because it would prevent a gradual melting of the snow by the sun during March and early April, and would cause the whole flood of melted snow and spring rains to pour down together during the latter days of April.

Lake Winnipeg Basin—It is not generally appreciated that lake Winnipeg is the size of lake Erie, that is, nearly 10,000 square miles in area. The basin that drains into this lake is 350,000 square miles in extent, or nearly the size of France and Spain, which two countries support a population of 58,000,000. The Saskatchewan river, which drains 158,800 square miles of this area, extends west to the mountains and from Edmonton to the 49th parallel. The mountain streams constituting the sources of this great river are very numerous. Many of them are fed by glaciers and offer a continuity of flow that promises well for water-power when an increasing population provides the demand.

The next great tributary of lake Winnipeg is the Red river, rising in Minnesota and flowing north to Winnipeg, where it is joined by the Assiniboine. From there it continues through the St. Andrews rapid to the lake. Both the Red and the Assiniboine, like the Saskatchewan, are alluvial rivers worn deep down in the prairie soil to an almost even grade, and are, in general, without the valuable falls over rocky ledges that so easily lend themselves to power development. Their swift running floods and ever changing shoals are a great detriment to navigation, especially on up-stream trips. As there are no lakes along these rivers, the spring thaws and early rains