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LARGE HYDRO DEVELOPMENT ON THE ST. MAURICE RIVER

PRELIMINARY WORK ON THE 180,000-H.P. HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAURENTIDE COMPANY AT GRAND MERE, QUE. — SOME DETAILS OF THE CONTRACTOR'S PLANT.

THE Laurentide Company has under construction at Grand Mere, on the St. Maurice River, a hydro-electric power plant, the ultimate capacity of which will place the company among the largest power producers in Canada. The new development is designed for an installation of 9 units, developing 20,000 h.p. each. Of this amount only 120,000 h.p. will be developed

series of cascades. The more important of these are the Shawinigan, La Tuque, Grand Mere and the Rapids des Hetres, nearly all of which are utilized by large industrial concerns. Grand Mere is situated about 90 miles north-east of Montreal, where the river drains an area of about 17,000 square miles. The point at which the development is being conducted is between two islands, one of them

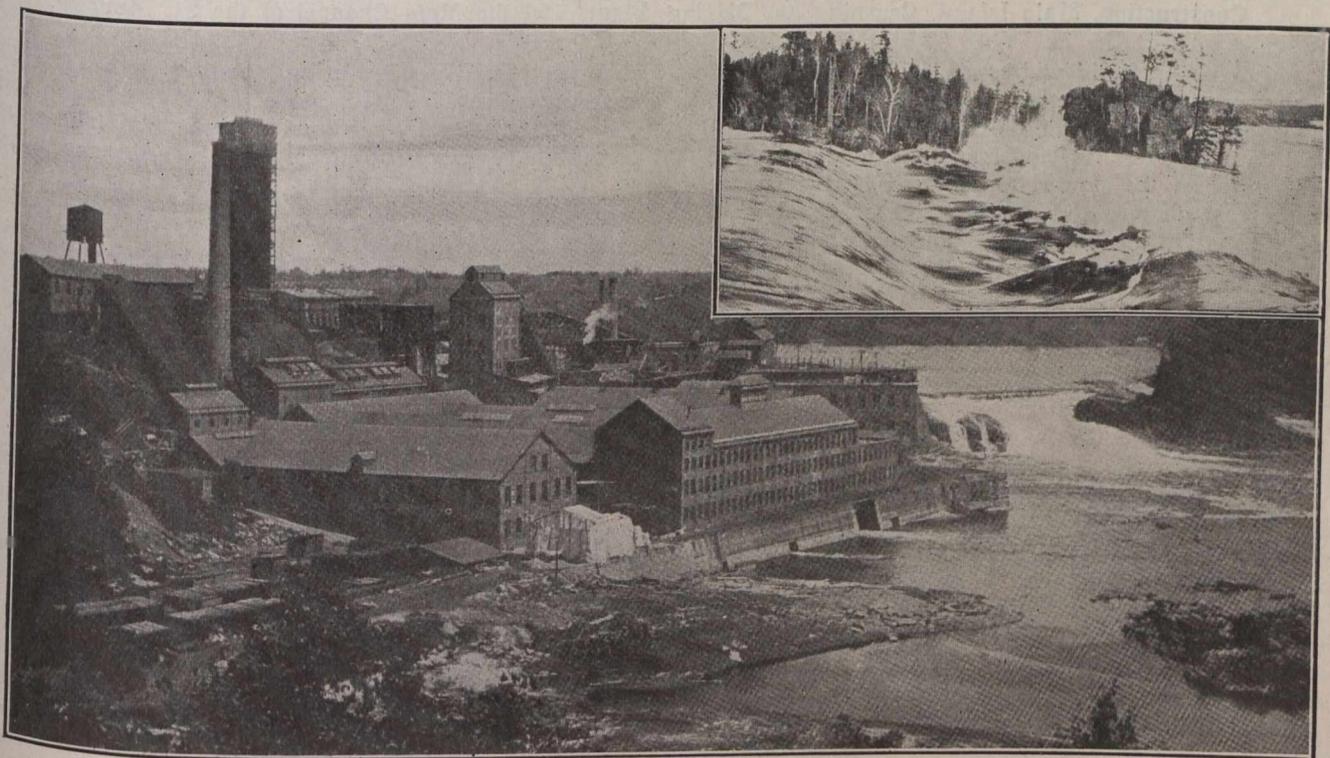


Fig. 1.—View of the Laurentide Co.'s Plant at Grand Mere. Inset Shows Channel and Grand Mere Rock.

at the present time. It was expected that 3 units, developing 60,000 h.p., would be ready for operation early in November of the present year, but the temporary curtailment of operations, due to the European war, will prevent such substantial completion this year.

The St. Maurice River is one of the largest tributaries of the St. Lawrence. It takes its rise in the watershed dividing the St. Lawrence slope from that of Hudson Bay. It flows from west to east, about 350 miles, through a mountainous region, and is broken frequently by a

Grand Mere, which bears a rock with a remarkable resemblance of an aged woman, whereby the name was originally derived. The other is a triangular shaped, rocky island, about 600 ft. in width.

The work was commenced in January, 1913. For years previous to this the Laurentide Company, manufacturers of pulp and paper, operated a dam and power house on the west shore of the river, the main channel remaining practically unharnessed. Fig. 1 is a view of the plant, while the inset shows at closer range the old