

Island to Double Share of Mainland Power

By IAN STREET
Colonist Legislative Reporter

B.C. Hydro hopes shortly to double the amount of power it is transmitting by submarine cable from the mainland to Vancouver Island, it was learned Wednesday.

The additional capacity is needed to meet demands of new industry on the Island.
Hydro chairman Dr. Gordon

Shrum said he expects tenders to be called within six months for a scheme to convert the undersea transmission line from alternating current to direct current.

He said engineers from both Sweden and Britain are studying the problem for Hydro.

The change from AC to DC would permit transmission of "more than double" the power carried by the two circuits now in operation, the chairman said.

Earlier, Resources Minister Williston, in announcing plans for construction of a \$4,000,000 chlorate plant for the Crofton district, said transmission lines from the mainland were already operating "pretty well at load point for the cable."

The minister said Hydro was considering whether to change from AC to DC transmission to increase the capacity, or install new cables at another location.

Graham Mitchell, Toronto, manager of Electric Reduction

Co. Canada Ltd., announced an immediate \$2,000,000 addition to the existing North Vancouver plant that will increase production 60 per cent.

By 1967, when the \$60,000,000 Gold River pulp mill goes into production, Erco hopes to have an Island plant in operation. It will probably cost about \$4,000,000 and employ about 35 men to turn out some 2,000 tons of chlorate per year.

"Our studies indicate the Island plant would probably be

located in the vicinity of Crofton," said Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Williston said the government was happy to learn of Erco's expansion plans, and congratulated the company on its foresight in planning to meet the enormous expansion in B.C.'s pulp and paper industry.

He said the North Vancouver addition and the proposed Island plant not only serves an expanding industry, but, because the chlorate process uses large amounts of bulk power at a high

load factor, provides a steady customer for B.C. Hydro.

Erco is a subsidiary of Albright and Wilson Ltd. of London, England.

It has another large plant in Buckingham, Quebec.

The immediate expansion of the North Vancouver operation will mean an increase in production to approximately 2,800 tons of chlorates a year by the time new pulp mills being built at Kamloops and Prince George be-

gin operating in late 1965 and early 1966.

Mr. Mitchell said his company had not yet made any final plans for Vancouver Island, but added "we are enthusiastic" about prospects. Final decision should be made within six months.

The submarine cables carrying B.C. Hydro power from the mainland to supplement power generated on Vancouver Island are located near the south end to take advantage of the smooth sea bottom.

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