

VICTORIA DAILY TIMES, INDUSTRIAL SECTION

## WATER POWERS ARE ASSET WHICH HAS YET ONLY BEGUN DEVELOPMENT

'White' Fuel Will Be Industrial Salvation of Island—Some Examples of Notable Water Power Developments Are Jordan and Puntledge Rivers

A recent visitor, after touring every part of Vancouver Island, was astounded at what he saw. "Harness the equable climate to the undeveloped water powers of Vancouver Island. Link the vast potential 'white fuel' of the beautiful falls of the interior to the textile industries, which call for slight range of temperature. Move the bleak factories of Lancashire and Massachusetts to the vider and freer fallness of the falls, whose waters have resounded for millions of years in a dismal place on this island, and I could wish no better place," was his verdict.

It was pointed out that the great factories of Lancashire and Yorkshire secured their cotton and woolen materials from distances as great as 12,000 miles, while Vancouver Island could procure them at half that distance. There are no long conveyances and long hauls of the raw materials, and the exhaustion of the coal, the depletion of the iron, the lack of timber will gradually increase in those countries where natural resources and energy are most abundant, he said.

Rich in Power.

Vancouver Island is rich in water power, approximately estimates about 100,000 horse-power. In addition, to those developed at Jordan, Campbell River and other smaller undertakings, the several great powers awaiting development include those at Campbell River, the largest on the island, which is 20,000 horse-power, at the upper and lower Jordan, the upper and lower Puntledge, the upper and lower Quatnam Falls, Gwethnao Lake, and the upper and lower Quatnam Falls.

Almost every large power area on the island is now being developed. The simple rainfall, equable climate combined with long narrow lakes and streams of various dimensions and elevations above sea level, possessing facilities for the storage of flood waters, with, in many cases, regular running between narrow dams may be watered, where Vancouver Island is prolific where water powers may be extended to the utmost.

This feature, combined with her rich natural resources, places the island in a position where she can benefit by paying little for industrial power. In fact, a survey of her resource declares that Vancouver Island is easily capable of supplying a province of England and the entire and can be economically developed, in fact, in many respects, for industrial purposes, the better every day.

Local Developments.

The first development for the operation of street-light and the lighting of the island was by the Victoria Electric Light and Power Company, which has been developed on the island, with the steam plant on the island. The first agreement with the Dominion Waterworks Company, September, 1917, for the supply of a maximum and minimum daily amount of water to the P. C. Electric Light and Power Company, which is the largest power plant in the island, is a landmark in the island's electrical capacity, and it is now the largest power developed for industrial light and street railway purposes.

The important plant at Jordan River, forty miles west of the city, where the present capacity installed is 2,000 horse-power, supplies the city, and is the largest home-grown power on Vancouver Island. In addition to these two plants, the P. C. Electric Light and Power Company is lighting service under a subsidiary plant on the Victoria River.

The Victoria Electric Light and Power Company, and other industrial plants, are being developed in the island, and the present time is ahead of the requirements of Victoria and district, the expectations at the time they were constructed being that there would be a very heavy industrial ex-

made in Canada is made in British Columbia.

He makes the following suggestion: "In view of what the vast forests in the interior of the island furnish, the existence of large waterpowers in those provinces for industrial areas of the interior, and the fact that the construction of hydro-electric plants must be carried out on or to produce electrical energy as economically as it does in the large plants in Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, in British Columbia, however, there are in many of the waterpowers somewhat similar conditions to those that obtain in Scandinavian countries, i.e., mountainous under high heads. In the power that can be developed, one writer's opinion, excluding the cost of transportation lines, many of these conditions are not so bad, and can be developed at a complete installation from 100 to 150 per horse-power, and these powers under the lower costs, while there are some conditions, particularly the fact that the undertaking electric-chemical industries. Considering the fact together with the wonderful possibilities of transport by water freight in the island, the advantages in comparison with low favorable districts is obvious.

tion. Particularly was this the case with regard to the open plants on Skagitum arm, which, however, ceased their extensive production when building activities became depressed.

The other important development is the Canadian Collieries (Stratford) Ltd., which is now being developed on the island at the Puntledge River, where the first power is developed and used primarily in connection with the company's coal mines. One of the P. C. Electric Light and Power Company, has consulting engineer for the P. C. Electric Light and Power Company, in his work on the Waterworks Board of the Department of the Interior, now that the water power is about 80 per cent of the power



CAMPBELL RIVER FALLS.

MAGNIFICENT STAMP FALLS, ONE OF THE FINEST WATER POWERS UNDEVELOPED ON ISLAND.



smaller because the wage cost is very low, the maintenance, and the greater freedom of operation, and the necessary in the world of industrial competition.

The town of Courtenay is the only industrial town on Vancouver Island, where a large number of small industries are located. The town is situated on the coast, and the industries are mostly small-scale manufacturing and processing. The town is well-served by the railway, and the industries are well-served by the local water powers.

Lesson From England.

Mr. Charles Parsons, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, during a recent address in England, said that in Canada, many of the water powers were being developed, and that the lesson to be learned from England was that the water powers should be developed in a systematic and planned manner, and that the government should take an active interest in the development of the water powers.

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