Subsection 2.—Water-Power Developments in the Provinces and Territories, 1953

Although a tremendous amount of hydro-electric construction was carried out in Canada during 1953, the net increase in installed capacity of 623,194 h.p. was somewhat lower than that of recent years. However, plants and extensions under construction for operation in 1954 totalled 1,500,000 h.p. and those for later years about an equal amount. Projects undertaken or under investigation at rather remote locations emphasize the future economic value of other undeveloped sites in unsettled regions. Construction in the field of power distribution and in the building of thermal-electric plants also was active. Over-all progress in each of the provinces, principally covering hydro-electric development, is outlined below.

Atlantic Provinces.*—The Newfoundland Light and Power Company completed the construction of its second plant on the Horse Chops River, having a capacity of 10,000 h.p. in one unit; also investigations were carried out on Pipers Hole River on which there are three sites totalling about 31,000 h.p. The Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company has completed the modernization of its Bishop's Falls development on the Exploits River, resulting in an increase in capacity of 6,000 h.p., making a total of 21,900 h.p. The Union Electric Light and Power Company investigated a site on the Trinity River where it is proposed to develop 2,000 h.p. under 260-foot head. The Iron Ore Company made favourable progress on its development at Menihek Rapids on the Ashuanipi River, a tributary of the Hamilton River in Labrador, and it is expected that the plant of 12,000 h.p. in two units will be in operation in August 1954; ultimately two additional units may be installed.

No new developments were completed in Nova Scotia in 1953 but the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company Limited had under construction for 1954 operation a plant of 9,000 h.p. on the Nictaux River near Middleton. The Nova Scotia Power Commission is proposing to develop 6,000 h.p. under 22-foot head on the Mersey River near Liverpool for 1955 operation.

The New Brunswick Electric Power Commission brought into operation in April its two-unit 27,000-h.p. plant at The Narrows on the Tobique River. Active investigations were carried out on the Beechwood site on the St. John River with a view to building a plant initially of two units, each of 48,000 h.p. Surveys also were made of a site of about 10,000 h.p. on the Sisson River, a tributary of the Tobique River. The St. George Pulp and Paper Company Limited carried out a modernization program resulting in an increase in capacity of 2,812 h.p. in its plant on the Magaguadavic River. The plant is now rated at 7,812 h.p. in four units.

Quebec.—The Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission completed its Beauharnois Power-house No. 2 by a two-unit addition of 111,000 h.p., bringing over-all capacity of the development to 1,400,000 h.p. On the upper Ottawa River, the construction of the Commission's two-unit 32,000-h.p. Rapid II development proceeded on schedule with operation expected in June 1954. Construction was commenced on a 1,200,000-h.p. hydro-electric development on the Bersimis River about 62 miles

* In addition to water-power development, the construction of fuel-electric plants included: a diesel unit of 3,850 h.p. at St. John's by the Newfoundland Light and Power Company; an additional unit of 22,000 kw. in the Halifax steam plant of the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company; and a unit of 18,780 kw. in the Grand Lake steam plant of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission.