



provinces except Prince Edward Island. As natural resource development proceeds, the fortunate incidence of water power in proximity to mineral, forest and other resources becomes increasingly apparent. The existence of large amounts of potential hydro power on northern rivers may well prove to be a factor of prime importance in the eventual realization of the natural wealth of the Canadian North.

The water power resources of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, although small in comparison with those of other provinces, are a valuable source of energy and make a substantial contribution to the economies of the two provinces. Numerous rivers in both provinces provide moderate-size power sites either within economic transmission distance of the principal cities and towns or advantageously situated for use in development of the timber and mineral resources. These provinces have, however, turned to coal-fired thermal generation and are increasingly utilizing oil.

### 13.3.5 Thermal power generation

The incidence of immense water power resources in Canada and the brisk pace of their development has tended to overshadow the very considerable contribution being made by thermal energy in the nation's power economy. At the end of 1971, the total installed thermal capacity in Canada was 16,077,000 kw, representing about 34% of the total electric generating capacity in the country. The fact that energy produced in thermal plants during the year accounted for only 25% of the total may be attributed in part to the fact that a considerable amount of the capacity installed is operated for peak-load duty, with hydro-electric capacity providing base-load generation. This pattern will change with the introduction of additional nuclear-fuelled thermal generation plants which can be operated economically at high capacity factors for base-load purposes.