



River, also an international river and the largest on the Pacific slope, is as yet of relatively little economic importance.

Utilization of inland water. Over 43% of all water withdrawn in Canada (excluding withdrawals associated with hydro projects) is for one end use, condenser cooling in steam-electric plants. About 99% of this water is returned for reuse. Municipal water use, including small industrial processors served by the municipal systems of Canada, accounts for some 10.5% of current water withdrawals. On average, approximately 75% of the water pumped into the system is discharged as storm and sanitary sewage containing waste materials.

Other industrial users, manufacturing and mining firms, account for 38% of the total withdrawals of water and about 10% of that intake is consumed or lost. Discharged water is frequently returned to source in a highly polluted condition and may be unfit for most uses downstream. Canadian agriculture depends largely upon plentiful supplies of water from melting snow and rainfall. In many regions of Canada, however, such natural sources of water are inadequate. Agriculture requires 7.7% of the nation's total withdrawals annually for irrigation, stock-watering and rural domestic use.

Hydro-electric power generation utilizes the kinetic energy of falling water to produce electricity. Except for evaporation losses from the surface of reservoirs, the water is not consumed or changed in any way. However, flooding of land for storage and interference with natural flow may cause serious adverse effects.

Although navigation along the natural waterways opened up the country to settlement and economic development, water transport is no longer the principal