

Gratifying Story Of Water Power Conservation On Trent Valley Canal

Trent Canal district may be to have furnished to Ontario the most real practical demonstration of the value of water conservation. While the Trent Canal has been in operation for many years, and has, in fact, constituted a sort of political football with which perhaps the great political parties have played, it is, at the same time, as a canal, a waterway for the transportation of the products of the country, that it has been advocated and to which it has been referred. This waterway, which when completed will run through the midland counties of Ontario, connecting Georgian Bay with the Ontario, at Trenton, constituting a route for barges of 8 ft. 6 in. draught fully 250 miles shorter than by the Welland Canal, is in reality nearing completion. It will, therefore, be a matter of short time only until the advantages of this route will have an opportunity of demonstrating to the world that they can, that the Trent Canal, projected nearly 75 years ago to carry grain from Midland to the sea at cheaper rates and in less time than by the Welland Canal, is not along this line of thought, but rather as a means by which electrical power has been developed along its route, and the fact that care to discuss the Trent Canal is playing in the industrial development of its district. Next to Niagara, there is no district, in Ontario, at least, in which the waterfalls are being developed to a greater degree than along the line of the Trent Canal. There has been a number of crude timber dams on the waterway for many years back, which power has been, to a limited extent, developed. It has been in recent years only, however, that the great possibilities of power development on the Trent Canal have been fully realized. Efficient modern power houses are now being set up at the various dams, and the district thereabout is being developed into a network of power transmission lines.

This is due to two main reasons. Firstly, it might be stated that the canal should take at certain points, the erection of substantial new concrete dams by the Dominion Government for canal purposes, made very valuable sites available for the development of power. These dams are, at the present time practically all acquired. Most of them are already being used in the development of electrical energy, and the remainder of them are about to be likewise utilized. They are owned by private persons, joint stock companies and municipalities. The nature of the titles to, and power privileges in connection with, these dams is considerably different. Some of them are owned outright by private individuals and they are entitled to all the surplus water without any year-rental. These dams thus held were erected many years ago, either before a canal was seriously thought of, or before the value of water power was understood. Other dams were merely leased from the Government (the terms of the leases varying) upon payment of a certain annual rental the amount of such rental being based, of course, upon the amount of power developed. Such dams as these are now placed under

the control of the Railway Commission, in so far as the matter of rates to consumers of power is concerned. This was a very wise move on the part of the present Minister of Railways and Canals, as it ensures to the public the delivery of power at a reasonable rate.

THE RESERVOIR WATERS

But the remarkable development of electrical power on the Trent Canal is not due to this alone. The flow of the Otonabee and Trent Rivers, on which the great portion of the power is developed, has, by a judicious and aggressive policy of conservation, been increased to such an extent that it has contributed perhaps to a greater degree than the construction of new dams to the present highly satisfactory state of affairs, and has indirectly also contributed to the development of the towns and villages along the route of the Canal. When it is realized that the flow of the Otonabee River at Peterboro has increased over 100 per cent. during the past five years, one can realize that water conservation on the Trent Canal has been a reality.

Until five years ago the waters of the Trent Canal and the waters of what is known as the Trent Canal watershed were under separate management. That is, the main lake and rivers that constitute the Trent Canal proper were under the control and management of the Dominion Government, while the feeders thereto were under the control of the Government of the Province of Ontario.

It must be borne in mind, that the County of Haliburton and those portions of the counties of Peterboro and Victoria north of the main line of the canal, contain almost countless lakes of various depths and sizes. A glance at a map drawn on a reasonably large scale, on which these lakes are shown, would undoubtedly surprise one who is not personally familiar with the locality. Some of these lakes are quite large, Rehstone for instance, in the township of Guilford, having an area of 3,081 acres; Kennebec, in the township of Havelock, having an area of 3,833 acres, and Gull Lake in the township of Lutterworth, having an area of 2,748 acres. These lakes empty into various streams that finally discharge into the Trent Canal. The two of the largest of these are known as the Gull River, which flows into Balsam Lake at Cobocok, and the Burnt River, which flows into Cameron Lake just above Penelon Falls.

A GREAT ACREAGE OF WATER

However, there are other streams that are valuable as "feeders" to Trent Canal, a full list of which, together with the areas, in acres of their basins, are as follows:

	Acres.
Gull River basin	40,864
Burnt River basin	22,950
Nogies Creek basin	1,671
Mississauga basin	7,002
Eeel's Creek basin	2,683
Deer Bay Creek basin	2,547
Buckhorn Creek basin	955
Squaw River basin	341
Jack's Creek basin	4,198
Total	83,238

During the year 1904 an agitation was started by the power users along the Trent Canal, as well as by the navigation interests, to have the control of above-mentioned water-

shed, or what is now commonly known as the reservoir waters, transferred from the Province of Ontario to the Dominion Government, in order that there might no longer be a dual system of management in connection with the water that finally passes through the Otonabee and Trent rivers on the main line of the canal. Until that time the normal flow of the Otonabee river at Peterboro was 44,000 cubic feet per minute. There was no uniform flow of water, for the reason that it was practically impossible under the conditions then existing, to control it.

At certain periods of the year—during the spring and early summer—an unnecessary amount of water came surging down the Otonabee and Trent Rivers, while by the month of August there was not enough water to drive the wheels of the various power houses on the canal, or supply the requirements of the navigation interests. This state of affairs was due to the fact that those in charge of the tributary waters had no interest whatever in these streams other than to assist the lumbermen in getting out their logs. The Ontario Government had built timber dams at the outlets of many of these lakes, which were controlled by the Provincial Department of Public Works. The dams were built and operated in the interests and for the sole benefit of the lumbermen. When the lumbermen would drive out the various lakes, there would be an abnormal and unnecessary flow of water come down into the main canal. The stop logs would remain out until the following spring, when the same process would be gone through.

NO DUAL MANAGEMENT.

It was argued, and quite properly so, that if the entire water of the Trent Canal watershed, together with the water in the main line of the canal, were placed under one management, a system of conservation could be inaugurated whereby, without any interference with the rights of the lumbermen, a steady and increased flow could be made to pass down the Otonabee and Trent Rivers at all seasons of the year. It was, of course, contended that the control should be vested in the Dominion Government, in view of the requirements for navigation purposes. After some months of negotiation, in which prominent men of the district, regardless of political creed, took part, the transfer to Can. Govt was made in July, 1905, the Provincial Government handing over all lakes, rivers and streams tributary to the Trent Canal, north of Peterboro. The Dominion Government agreed to protect the rights of the lumbermen in respect of the use of dams on these streams and guaranteed to them all privileges they had hitherto enjoyed.

The Department of Railways and Canals, under whose control this splendid watershed now came, at once got busy. Money was voted for the repair, re-building and improving of the dams at the outlets of these various lakes. The old timber dams were in many instances replaced by substantial concrete structures. Others were repaired and tightened, and in mostly every other case the dams were raised by many feet over their former level. On the various streams good competent, and

LIFE OF GREAT PROMISE CLOSED IN DEATH OF PALMER EYRES

Palmer Eyres is dead! This was the sad announcement that greeted the citizens on Saturday afternoon, and the calling home of a young man whose life was full of promise and who wore the white flower of a spotless life, filled the hearts of his many friends with sorrow.

William Palmer Eyres was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Eyres and was in the twenty-fifth years of his age at the time of his sad demise. He was born in Cameron, educated in the Collegiate Institute, and afterwards took up the grain business. He was recognized on all sides as a young man of sterling worth and unimpeachable character, and one who was endowed with rare business talents. It was only natural that a young man possessing such qualifications would have his worth recognized. Last August he journeyed to the great West and accepted a responsible position on the grain exchange. Here he won the esteem and love of his associates, and he was looked upon as a valued official. Being a young man anxious to make his mark, and endowed with rare business acumen, he devoted himself with zeal and earnestness to his calling. Close application to business, however, told on the deceased. About two weeks ago he was stricken with illness, which developed into inflammation of the brain. His attending physician, Dr. A. Clarke, of Winnipeg, (brother of Dr. Clarke, of Lindsay), as well as the staff of St. Boniface Hospital, were untiring in their attention to the young man, but death claimed him at 4 o'clock on Saturday morning. His father, who arrived in Winnipeg, last Tuesday, was with him when the end came.

The deceased is survived by his sorrowing parents, and two brothers, Messrs. G. Eyres, of Lindsay, and Dr. H. H. Eyres, of the Protestant General Hospital, Ottawa. The sympathy of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances will go out to them in their bereavement.

The remains will arrive this evening per C.P.R.

Congratulations to the D. & F. Firm

The firm of Dundas & Flavelles, Ltd are receiving many letters of congratulation on the occasion of this, their fiftieth anniversary. We had the pleasure of reading one of them to-day, and we publish it here because we believe it expresses the sentiments of our citizens as a whole: Wm. Flavelle, Esq., President, Dundas & Flavelles, Ltd., Lindsay.

Dear Sir.—I am in receipt of the chaste folder, announcing the semi-centennial of your company, and have great pleasure in extending to you my sincere congratulations.

It is rare to-day, for a business to continue for fifty years without a break, in the same town or city, and when this does occur, it speaks well for those responsible for its virility. That generation yet unborn, may grown up to know familiarly, the lusty firm of D. & F. is the hearty wish of,

Yours sincerely,

Shiloh's Cure
quickly stops coughs, cures colds, heals the throat and lungs. . . . 25 cents

SHALL WATERS OF HOLLOW LAKE COME DOWN THE TRENT CANAL?

(Examiner).

Shall the waters of Hollow Lake flow into the Gull River and come down the Trent Waterway, or shall they continue, as at present, to flow into the east branch of the Muskoka River, then into the Lake of Bays, and finally into the Muskoka Lakes and Georgian Bay? This is a question which has just recently been raised and one which will undoubtedly demand a great deal of discussion.

Hollow Lake is a fair sized body of water, having an area as large, if not larger, than Sturgeon Lake, and there is no doubt that the water that flows therefrom, if diverted this way, would prove an important factor in its relation to the power and navigation interests on the Trent Canal. A glance at the map shows that this lake is located in the County of Haliburton. To be precise it might be stated that it is surrounded by the Townships of McClintock and Livingston.

It is separated from the other lakes of Haliburton county by a ridge of land that divides the rainfall of that back country, sending some of the water down the Gull River into the Trent Canal, and sending the remainder thereof by way of Hollow Lake, the east branch of the Muskoka Lakes, Georgian Bay and after passing through Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie, Niagara River, joins its old neighboring waters at Trenton on Lake Ontario. Yet the points at which these waters start their respective journeys to the sea are perhaps not more than a mile apart.

It is not the purpose of this article to deal with the merits of the contention that the natural outlet of Hollow Lake is by way of the Gull River. It is merely for the purpose of reciting the arguments as made by those who allege that such is the case. There is no question, however, as to great benefits that would accrue to the various interests on the Trent Canal if the waters were diverted this way.

It is claimed, and it might be stated, claimed in no uncertain manner, that the natural outlet for waters of Hollow Lake, and the adjoining height of land plateau, was through Minden Bay, at the south west corner of that Lake, into Trout Lake, Sonoras Lake and the Gull River. The waters of these last two mentioned lakes do, of course, at the present time, flow into the Gull River. It is alleged that for many years the waters of Hollow Lake found their outlet in this direction, and that no water flowed from Hollow Lake into the east branch of the Muskoka River, although the head of that stream must have been very close to Hollow Lake. It is claimed that in the early days, when the lumbermen were practically the administrators of the north country, the flow of water was diverted to suit the requirements of certain lumbering interests. The lumbering interests on the Gull river waters were not then very extensive, a great portion of the lumbering at that time having been carried on on the Black River, which

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Thousand Cars for G.T.R.

The Grand Trunk railroad has put upon the road recently nearly 1,000 or more new box cars. These cars are very strongly built, are uniform in size and additionally strengthened by iron bases and cross-bars. They are nearly all of sixty ton capacity and present a very solid, serviceable appearance.

The cars are being distributed all along the line, and several trains have passed through Peterboro.

Child Murdered In A Church

(Special to the Post)

Louisville, Ky., Nov. 29.—Joseph Wendling, charged with the murder of little nine-year-old Alma Kellner, who for months was supposed to be the victim of a mysterious kidnapping plot, was yesterday placed on trial in the Criminal Court here.

The child disappeared on Dec. 8, 1909, leaving her home to attend mass at St. John's Church. No trace of the missing girl was found until May 30, when bones identified as hers were found buried in the cellar of the St. John's Church parochial school. Wendling, a former janitor of the church and school, who had disappeared Jan. 19, was arrested in San Francisco July 30, charged with the murder.

ANNIVERSARY DAYS

These are the days to be proud of, the days when we feel and look our best. You can satisfy your mental enjoyment here every day by hearing the beautiful musical program arranged each afternoon, but we'll attend to your outward appearance, and you can rest assured it will be right if you allow us to garb you in one of our swagger and cleverly styled Suits and Overcoats and Furnishing Accessories that are now on sale during our 10 Days' Anniversary Sale, as we pass the 50th milestone in our business history in Lindsay.



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