Possibilities For Fish Curing In Prince Rupert

There are all sorts of possibilities in and around Prince Rupert for the establishment of fish curing establishments, crab canneries and plants. Already curing of herring and black cod is done by the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Company and by the Bacon Fisheries, but other fish might well be included and there might also be filleting businesses established in other lines connected with the fisheries.

In the past Prince Rupert has looked to her fresh fish business for her chief source of revenue but curing will undoubtedly be an industry for the future. The great cod supply has been left severely alone so far.

FLOUR MILL NEEDED HERE

One of the industries that should be a success in Prince Rupert would be a flour mill. There is a terminal elevator here so that supplies of the best grades of wheat could be obtained. There is water and rail connection and plenty of cheap power for it will now be available.

Brief History of Development Of Public Utility In Prince Rupert, B.C., and District

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round and well protected from all points. It has to be seen to realize that vessels can sweep round the harbor and tie up at the docks without the necessity of pilot tugs, at all periods of the year. Prince Rupert being situated a few hours run from Alaska, gives the impression that ice and snow are known all winter. What a fallacy this is, may be shown when one may see in the various gardens at Christmas, lovely roses in full bloom. The temperature is similar to that of England and the oldest of old-timers has never seen a particle of ice in Prince Rupert's harbor.

Cheap Logging

Prince Rupert and vicinity offers an attractive field for the tourist, the hunter, the fisherman, the investor, the financier, the miner, and the industrialist. Here can be seen virgin forests of spruce and cedar for hundreds of square miles and the city will no doubt be the future location for industries requiring raw products in quantity and quality. Logs can be landed in Prince Rupert for $8.00 per cord. This latter item alone will turn the future pulp industry toward the north which is particularly suited for this class of industry because of its vast quantities of timber and ample water and power resources.

Industries now follow the power transmission line and the Northern British Columbia Power Company has shown its faith in the district by the completion of its first initial installation of an ultimate capacity of 32,000 h.p. Known recorded water available within a radius of forty miles, totals some 100,000 h.p. and if one extends this to a radius of 100 miles, a moderately easy transmission distance the power available may be stated as fully 500,000 h.p.

Transmitting this power from diversified water sheds and districts, is a guarantee of ample cheap power with continuity of service in a district that is practically exempt from lightning troubles.

Early Installations

One question that arose in considering the necessities of life in the early stages of the history of Prince Rupert was the supply of electricity at that time and for the future. To tide over the preliminary period of investigation, a temporary steam plant of 100 k.w. was installed at the present site of the Distribution Station at the junction of First and Third Avenues and euphemiously known as Cow Bay. A modern distribution system was constructed covering the various sections of the city.

Before the search for and investigation of the hydro sites in the vicinity were completed, the demands for power for domestic and commercial purposes increased to such an extent that it was soon realized that prompt action should be taken to increase the installed steam plant capacity.

In the year 1912, two further units of 100 k.w. capacity were instlled, increasing the total installed capacity to 300 k.w. In the meantime, investigation was proceeding by the municipality covering the Woodworth Lake area for water to cover the municipal requirements and it was considered feasible to incorporate in this proposal, the installation of 1-1000 k.w. unit. The combined installation was then constructed under a bylaw for $550,000 and Shawatlans plant went into operation early in 1914.

The construction of the concrete gravity type dam and the pipe line installation at Woodworth Lake left much to be desired and required continuous and increasing costs for patrol and maintenance. The lack of a proper surge tank created heavy surges on the penstock causing failures which proved expensive and in many cases the rupturing of the city water main could be traced to this cause.

Dry Dock Harnessed

The loads continued to increase until in 1925, an agreement was made between the Canadian National Railways, who operate the Prince Rupert Dry Dock, to lease their steam plant of 2,000 k.w. capacity. This eliminated the majority of the troubles encountered, due to heavy surges induced by the increasing size of the loads in relation to the generator capacity installed. The use of this steam plant has no doubt saved the city untold expense for the up-keep of their water lines.

It was early realized that the city would again be compelled to consider the desirability of increasing the plant capacity and as the Prince Rupert Dry Dock steam plant was operated on a temporary lease, early and decisive action must be taken.

For several years the citizens had adopted the municipal ownership program and early in 1912 the Honorable T. D. Pattullo lost the Mayoralty seat by his action in getting behind the Prince Rupert Hydro-Electric Company which at that time proposed to instal hydro capacity and wholesale this energy for distribution to the city.

This was decisively defeated. Many prominent citizens thought the city had made a great mistake in refusing this offer. Time proved they were correct. The increasing capital requirements of a program for a growing town or city will eventually cripple their ability to finance other works and it is only a matter of time until they are forced to sell their utilities.

Companies Competed

This is the period the city approached in 1927 when the then Mayor, Lieutenant Colonel McMordie, recognized that something drastic would have to be done and that immediately.

The increasing requirements for power would necessitate further increased investment which the city could very readily dispense with. Drastic economy in the past and the requirements for increasing expenditure due to maintenance of the other public works required that consideration be given to the disposal of the light and power utility. It was recognized by the Mayor and Council and the people, who were convinced the only solution, if the city was to prosper, was to sell out their interests to some responsible company. Several entered the field in competition for the purchase of the assets of the municipal light and power system and after a protracted battle, the honors fell to the Power Corporation, a Canadian concern under the financial aegis of the Nesbitt, Thompson Company of Montreal.

The system was sold to this company with the stipulation that a development of 5,000 h.p. should be completed within two years from the date of the sale. (i.e.) from the 21st of March, 1928.

The confidence in the Power Corporation was not misplaced. As early as May, their locating engineer, G. H. Kohl with an assistant were soon on the ground.

They were immediately followed by the plant manager, J. S. H. Wurtele and the general contractor, Supt. Norman Mitchell, when a tour and survey of all available sites was made.

The decision to instal a unit at Falls River was made at this time, provision being made for a unit of 6,000 h.p. and a second unit of similar capacity with an ultimate capacity of 32,000 h.p.

Portland Canal Activities

About this time, the plants and distribution system of the International Electric Company and International Electric Incorporated, operating systems in Stewart and Hyder, B.C., and Hyder, Alaska, were purchased.

Certain preliminary investigation and construction was made on American Creek, a tributary of the Bear River, which empties into the head of the Portland Canal. A further crew was sent to the Naas River. Considerable money was spent in this area studying locations and possible sites. Precipitation and other records were made during the winter. the story of this crew during the winter, would itself make an interesting story of adventure, traversing country which to that time had never seen the imprint of a white man and in many cases even that of the native Indian. The engineer, however, is a rather prosaic individual blessed with ideals and imagination insofar as his particular job is concerned, but with little imagination left to interpret to the average reader, and depict the scenic gradeur and difficulties overcome and the many adventures and risks made from day to day that become so commonplace. He does not realize how interesting his story might be made and what pleasure would be given to those who were, through lack of circumstances or other duties, deprived of participating directly in his contacts with nature. His job, he feels is to get information that will give his employers not fifty cents on the dollar but as nearly as possible one hundred cents on the dollar. Errors of omission or commission must be reduced to the minimum. Privation with hunger and thirst are in some cases an everyday occurrence and the rationing of the last few biscuits may be told of as something incidental to the day's work.

Still Investigating

The reader may think this is a digression from the main theme of the article but a perusal of Mr. Holloway's diary will bear out the above and may be noted briefly in his report on return to his Home Office. Mr. Perry and a crew of four men are in this area and will continue the work of investigation commenced by Mr. Holloway. Stewart may yet draw energy for the treating of its ores from this part of the country in the future. Vast ore reserves are known to exist in this area and it will only be a matter of time until this district will boast of many paying mines similar to the Premier. The Consolidated have made and are still making extensive investigation in the whole of this area from the Yukon, through Atlin, Taku, Stewart, Alice Arm and down across the Skeena to the Coast.

As mentioned above, preliminary surveys, clearing and construction for the Falls River plant were pushed forward in the early part of 1929 and were scheduled by the Power Corporation engineers to complete the transmission line and plant towards the end of October. The completion of the plant including the transmission line and Skeena crossing, which will supply all the present load requirements of Prince Rupert, will be thrown on the line by the time this paper goes to press and will be completed according to schedule.

MORAL SUASION

"Bless me," said Tommy's grandfather, "and do you mean to tell me they never use the strap at your school now?"

"Never!" replied Tommy.. "We have moral suasion in our school!"

"What's that?" asked the grandfather.

"Well, we get kept in, and put to stand in a corner and locked out and locked in, and made to write a thousand words, and scowled at and jawed at, and that's all!"