

SHAWINIGAN GETS LOW COST POWER AT RAPIDE BLANC

On 240,000 H.P. Installation Outlay Will be About \$20,019,000

From Our Own Correspondent

MONTREAL.—Final approval has been given by the Quebec Public Service Commission to Shawinigan Water and Power Co. to carry out its hydro-electric development at **Rapide Blanc** on the Upper St. Maurice River.

This is but one of several hydro developments to be undertaken over a long stretch of the Upper St. Maurice controlled by Shawinigan under a 75-year emphyteutic lease entered into with the provincial government. That stretch reaches from the confluence of the St. Maurice and the Manouane Rivers, down to the point where the line dividing Dumoulin and Vallieres townships cross the main stream.

Under the lease the company is obliged to commence the first development on or before July 1, 1930, to develop at least 100,000 h.p. by July, 1933, and to expend at least \$10,000,000. Among the several rapids capable of developing hydro power, the company selected **Rapide Blanc** as the first development.

Work Now In Hand

As pointed out in The Financial Post recently Shawinigan already has made good progress on this project. Last year ground and air surveys were completed. At present the company has a gang of several hundred men engaged in constructing a concrete road from the railway into the site. Trucks will be used for the transportation of materials.

According to figures cited in its petition to the Public Service Commission the approximate head at **Rapide Blanc** will be 110 feet. The original installation, it is estimated, will produce 160,000 h.p., and the original estimated cost is \$18,019,000. With the complete installation, the estimate of production is 240,000 h.p. and the estimated cost of the development, when complete, \$20,019,800.

Power Costs Low

Power from that development would thus cost the company around \$83 per h.p. Production is expected to commence in the fall of 1932.

The stretch of the upper St. Maurice covered by the lease in question, which runs for 75 years from June 22, 1928, holds, in addition to **Rapide Blanc**, the following waters open to hydro development: **Rapide** Trenche, Sans Nom, **Rapide** des Coeurs, **Rapide** du Lievre, and **Rapide** Allard. As soon as 75 per cent of the primary power developed by **Rapide Blanc** shall have been disposed of, or at the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, the company is held to begin construction of the second development, the selection of the site being left to the company. Likewise, when 75 per cent of primary power from the second development shall have been sold, the third must be begun. It is stated that, should further surveys show the desirability of developing fourth or additional developments in the stretch of waters, that shall be at the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, but only when 75 per cent of power from developments already complete shall have been contracted for.

May Spend \$94,500,000

On the total development, as a whole, and including transmission lines, the company, by lease, must expend at least \$25,000,000. According to estimates given by the company to the commission, when the stretch of the St. Maurice in question is under complete development, production will reach \$1,208,000 h.p., while estimated cost of the total installation may go to \$94,500,000.