

RAPIDE BLANC POWER PROJECT READY IN SPRING

Additional Power Needs Cause Shawinigan to Rush Work

From Our Own Correspondent

MONTREAL. — Completion of the Rapide Blanc hydro-electric development on the Upper St. Maurice River as soon as possible in order to provide the company with an additional supply of power, has been ordered by the directors of Shawinigan Water and Power Co.

Construction of this plant was undertaken some time ago, but its completion was deferred owing to the lack of any pronounced demand for additional supply of energy. For several months past, however, Shawinigan's power load has been steadily increasing until today all plants are running at capacity. This reflects the introduction of the electric boilers in pulp and paper plants and also the better demand for primary power.

Ready Next May

Work will be carried out at Rapide Blanc during the winter months and by next May it is expected that 80,000 h.p. will be available for distribution. This work will provide employment for several hundred people.

With the plant in operation work will be carried on in adding to the turbine and generating installations so that by the fall of 1934 the plant will be brought up to its maximum capacity of 160,000 h.p.

The carrying out of this work will require no financing on the part of the company, as it has on hand the necessary funds for this purpose.

Adequate Power Reserves

It will be recalled that in securing the right to develop the power resources on the Upper St. Maurice River—involving approximately 1,250,000 h.p. in all—the company agreed to complete the first unit at Rapide Blanc some time ago. In view of the fact that this power was not wanted at the time and that the completion of the project would only add to the surplus of power then existing, arrangements were made by the company with the Quebec Government to defer the development of the Upper St. Maurice until times were more propitious.

Under the terms of the lease, Shawinigan will not have to go ahead with the second development until 75 per cent of the firm power load of the Rapide Blanc plant has been sold under contract. This assures the company of an adequate supply of power when wanted under favorable conditions.