

Huge Forest Tract Opened By New Northern Highway

Access into a large forest area north of Prince George provided by the newly-opened Hart Highway is expected to increase the district's annual lumber production by one-quarter of its annual output of 50,000,000 board feet.

Six new applications for forest management licenses have been submitted, covering an estimated annual cut of 120,000,000 board feet.

While some 700 operations—from small outfits of 20 men to major ones employing up to 250—are cutting timber in the area, resources still are plentiful, say forestry officials.

The Fort George forest district which extends northward from a point between Quesnel and Williams Lake to the Yukon border includes some of the richest timbered areas in the province, an estimated 35 billion feet.

To date, major produce has been finished and rough lumber for export to U.S. and Eastern Canadian markets.

"But the vast amount of pulp timber hasn't been touched and provides raw material for several pulp mills for many years to come," says Bob Gallagher, manager of the Northern Interior Lumbermen's Association, whose offices are located in Prince George.

AT QUESNEL

A new industry, however, was located near Quesnel, 80 miles south of Prince George when Western Plywoods opened its multi-million dollar plant in 1953.

Western Plywoods (Cariboo) Ltd. received the first forest management license in the district providing an allowable annual cut of 9,500,000 board feet.

Most of the major operations are located along the railway centre of Prince George, biggest of which is the Prince George Planing Mills Ltd.

At Giscombe, a few miles east of the city, the Eagle Lake Sawmills is the largest such operation north of the lower Mainland.

NEW INDUSTRY

Meanwhile, a new industry making use of mill wastes is being developed. Hans Rione believes he is the only manufacturer anywhere of a type of building material made of wood shavings, sawdust and concrete. The four-inch thick slabs measuring two by four feet, are made for use in putting up walls and for basement floors.

Several homes in Prince George have been erected recently using this material. The new homeowners corroborate the manufacturer's statement that the slabs, which are light in weight and fireproof, are also impervious to moisture.

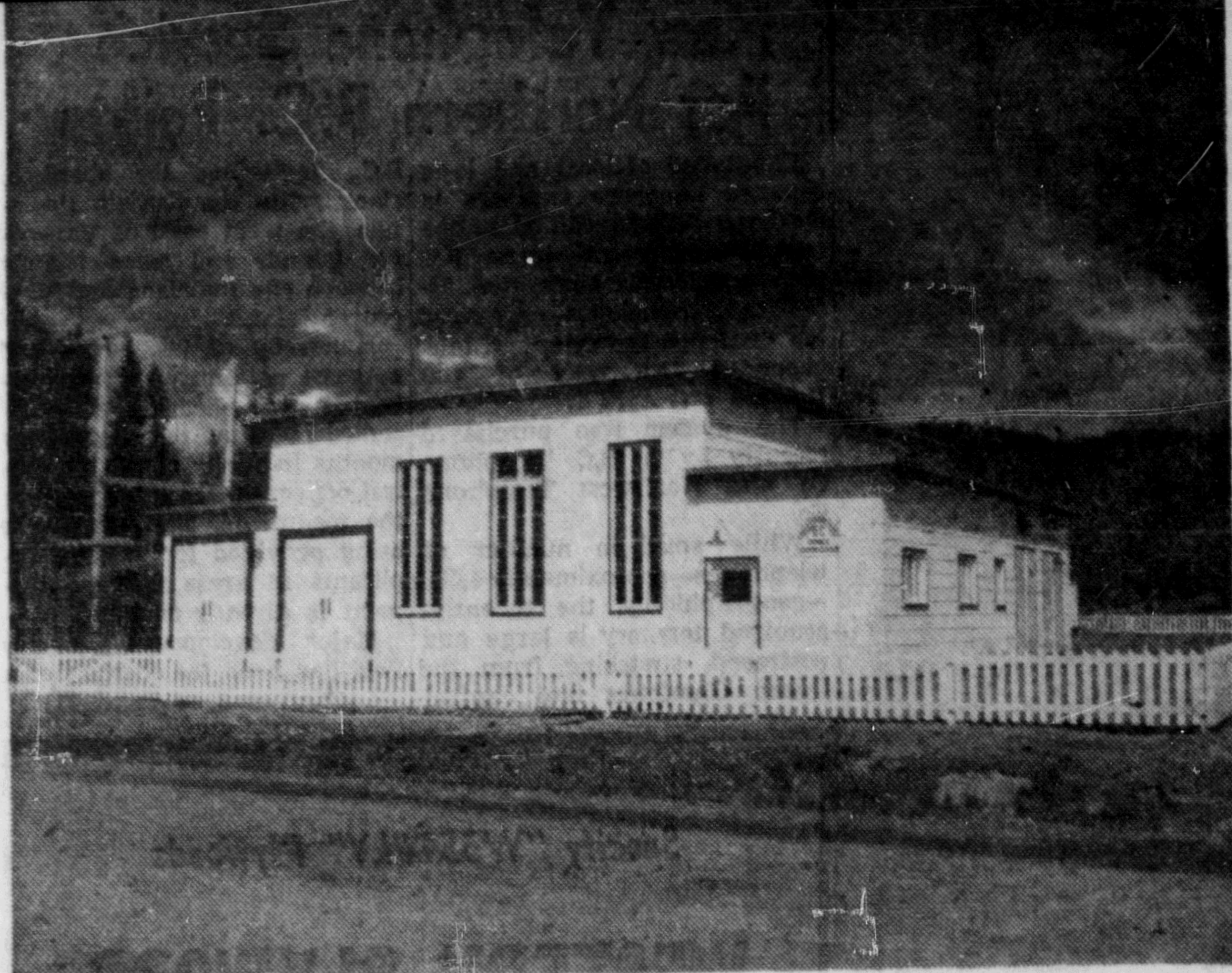
The present building boom in Prince George is providing an increasing local market for its

has called on Soviet trade unions to concentrate on wage inducements as a means of increasing productivity of Soviet laborers.

ASK LOWER TARIFFS

STOCKHOLM — The international federation of newspaper publishers has urged

lower air transport tariffs for newspapers, contending that they can be considered easily perishable goods.



NEAT POWERHOUSE at the historic community of Fort St. James was built by the B.C. Power Commission in 1952, along with distribution system to bring the district its first central station electrical service. This 250-kilowatt capac-

ity plant is one of the smaller powerhouses operated by the publicly-owned utility in the central interior, but is able to provide about 175 customers with reliable, round-the-clock service.

Electric Power Major Factor In Growth of B.C. Northland

By JAMES McKEACHIE

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

That Biblical quotation has a modern application to British Columbia's vast central interior and northland. The far-sighted vision of men, organizations and governments in recent years in unfolding the threshold of a new era for this province and its abundant untapped resources assuredly rules out any thought of this huge area and its inhabitants perishing economically.

A vision usually is pictured as something emanating light and brightness. B.C.'s vision is no exception—for a major factor in the post-war growth of B.C.'s hinterland has been the British Columbia Power Commission.

Ten years ago, villages along the CNR's northern line from Prince George to Prince Rupert had spotty, often inadequate power service. In some cases, an individual would own a small diesel engine, would string wires to some of his neighbor's homes and, first thing he knew, he was in the utility business.

But if the engine broke down, it was often days or even weeks before a new part could be obtained and installed. Thus the oil lamps were kept handy at all times.

This unreliable service was lighting only; no one would or could depend on it for cooking and heating, and certainly there was no service available for any type of industry, large or small.

In some centres, small utilities were unable or unwilling to invest the capital needed to provide services warranted by the growth. Then, in April, 1945, the B.C. legislature passed the "Electric Power Act." Under that act, the B.C. Power Commission came into being as a Crown Corporation.

ZERO TO \$65,000,000

Starting from scratch, this publicly-owned utility has grown into a \$65,000,000 organization—a utility owned by those it serves. Now there are nearly 53,000 customers receiving adequate, reliable power in 27 power districts, from Duncan to Dawson Creek; from the Queen Charlottes to Quesnel, and from Ucluelet to Golden.

This growth has been accomplished through sound financial policies at no cost to the taxpayers of the province. The commission operates like any other business—it sells its product, electricity, and it is from these sales it derives its revenue. It finances through floating its own bond issues, but in its early days it received advances from the government—advances which are being repaid, principal and interest, from revenue.

The commission has received no subsidy from the taxpayer, and the people it serves are, in effect, building a publicly-owned self-sustaining utility.

Because there are no shareholders power is sold at cost. However, everyone in B.C. has an intangible share in the commission, since commission bonds are guaranteed by the provincial government as the organization is contributing to the entire economy of the province.

AWAKENED AREAS

Most people are familiar with amazing percentage figures of growth in the awakened central interior and northern areas. The Power Commission's story of growth to meet the rapidly-expanding requirements of centres like Terrace, Smithers, Burns Lake, Quesnel, Vanderhoof, Williams Lake and Dawson Creek is no exception.

In fact, the commission's expansion is an excellent yardstick to the growth enjoyed by these activated areas. Number of customers served has doubled, tripled and even quadrupled and quintupled in most of these centres, and in many cases, average monthly domestic consumption is approaching what was the annual consumption less than a decade ago!

For example, Quesnel had 256 customers in 1945, with residential customers paying 8.4 cents

per kilowatt hour, with an average monthly consumption of 35 kwh (something less than the average refrigerator uses per month). Today, there are more than 1,500 customers, average residential cost is 3.5 cents per kwh, and the average home uses 140 kwh per month.

In 1945, three small diesel units with a combined total of 80 kw and a small 125 kw hydro unit gave Quesnel a total capacity of 205 kw.

Today, the commission's powerhouse has five large diesel units which can produce 3,200 kw of electrical energy, and a 1,000 kw unit will be added this year.

It's the same story in Terrace, Smithers, Vanderhoof, Hazelton, Houston, Burns Lake, Williams Lake, Fort St. James, Queen Charlotte City and Dawson Creek—more power for better living for more people at a steadily-decreasing average cost.

All these centres, incidentally, are serviced from diesel electric stations, the individual towns' loads being insufficient to justify hydro, or because no suitable, economic hydro development is available.

At Dawson Creek, natural gas drives the diesel engines with a fuel saving of more than 50 per cent over diesel oil.

But there's more to the story: hundreds of farms and homes in these districts which formerly were without electricity now enjoy the amenities of electric cooking, heating, ironing, etc., just as folks in the big cities do—and at comparable rates. In addition, entire areas such as Fort St. James and Queen Charlotte City, which never had central station service, now are electrified.

And what of the future? The Power Commission will continue to not only meet the requirements of its customers, but to plan, survey and study to assure proper service for homes, businesses and industries.

This year a survey will be carried out on the Clearwater River system at the head of the North Thompson valley; studies of other hydro sites are under consideration; new diesel units will be installed at Terrace, Williams Lake and Quesnel, and other units will be transferred to increase capacity of the Hous-

ALASKA MEET VOTES FOR COAST HI-WAY

MCKINLEY PARK, Alaska (AP) — Resolutions introduced at the Alaska Chamber of Commerce meeting here included one urging construction of a paved coastal route through Canada with tributary feeder roads where needed to promote trade and industry in northwest Canada and Alaska.

The resolution said a road from Hazelton, B.C., via Telegraph Creek to Atlin, would be cheaper to pave, would serve an area favorable to development.

It would pass through highly mineralized areas to open potential sources of needed strategic minerals, and would enhance national defense as an alternate Alaska Highway route.

Electronic Plan For Keeping Food

Four young nuclear scientists are at work in California on an atomic-age machine they believe may make it unnecessary to use refrigerators to preserve foods.

Their problem is how to make an electron linear accelerator cheap enough and small enough to be practical for treating foods.

Two years ago at the University of Michigan and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, it was proven that exposing food to radiation destroys the bacteria and interrupts enzyme action that make refrigerators necessary.

ton, Hazelton and Queen Charlotte Island diesel plants. Additional capacity for the Burns Lake diesel station is under consideration. Possibility of transmitting Kitimat power to Terrace has been studied.

A survey of the municipally-owned Prince George electrical facilities got under way in mid-May following a request from that city that the commission provide service there.

The survey will be followed by a report to the city of Prince George and possibly negotiations will follow, but the survey and its results are in no way binding on the city to sell its electric utility to the commission.

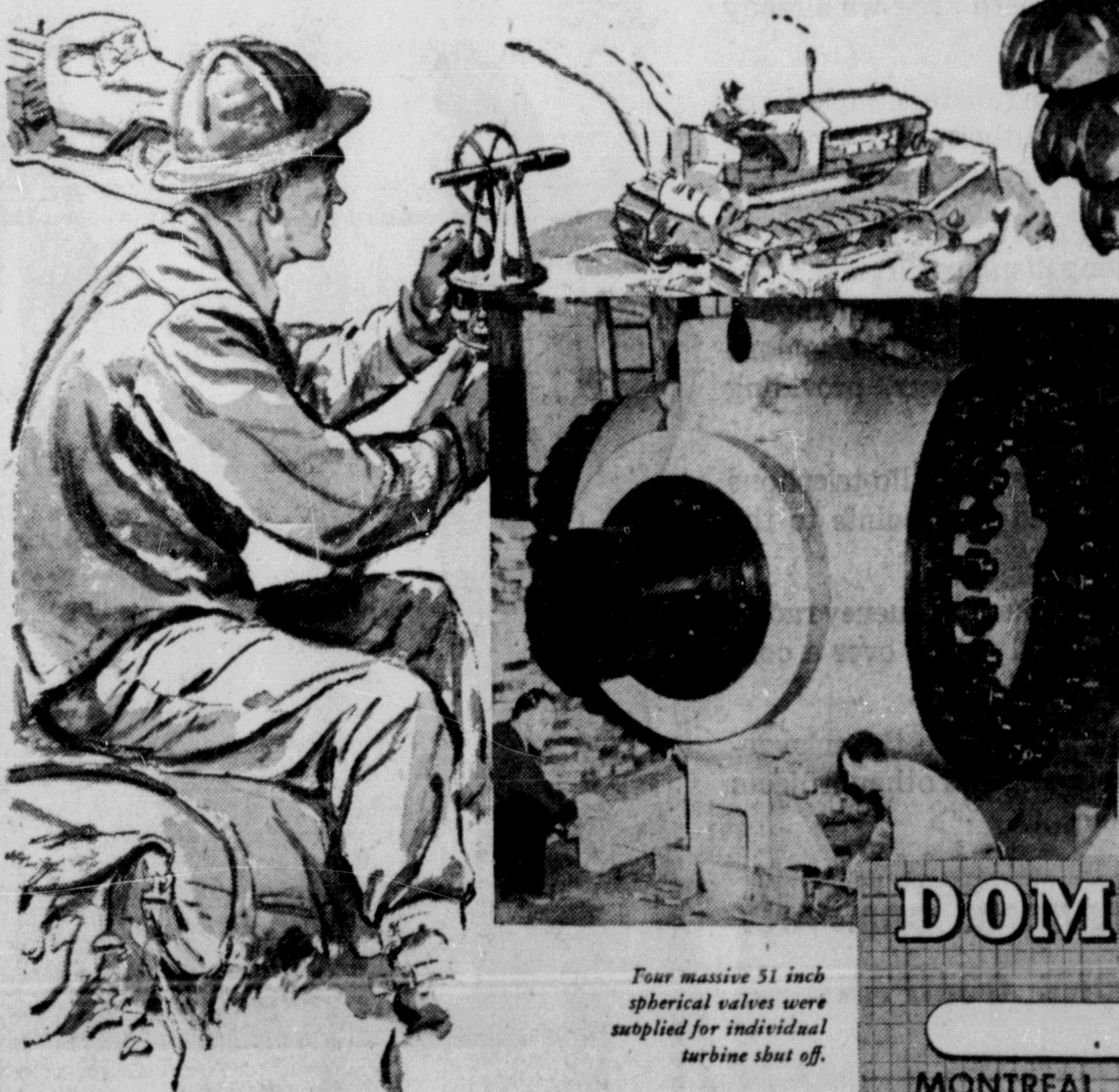
Following a request from the city of Prince Rupert, backed by a plebiscite which favored the proposal to ask the commission to serve the area, preliminary negotiations have taken place, but there has been no decision one way or the other in this matter.

On a request from the village of McBride, east of Prince George, the commission agreed to take over the existing village-owned distribution system and serve the district. The distribution system will be completely rebuilt this summer and a new diesel generating station will be built. Incidentally, a plebiscite, with only one dissenting vote, endorsed the action of the village in agreeing to sell the system.

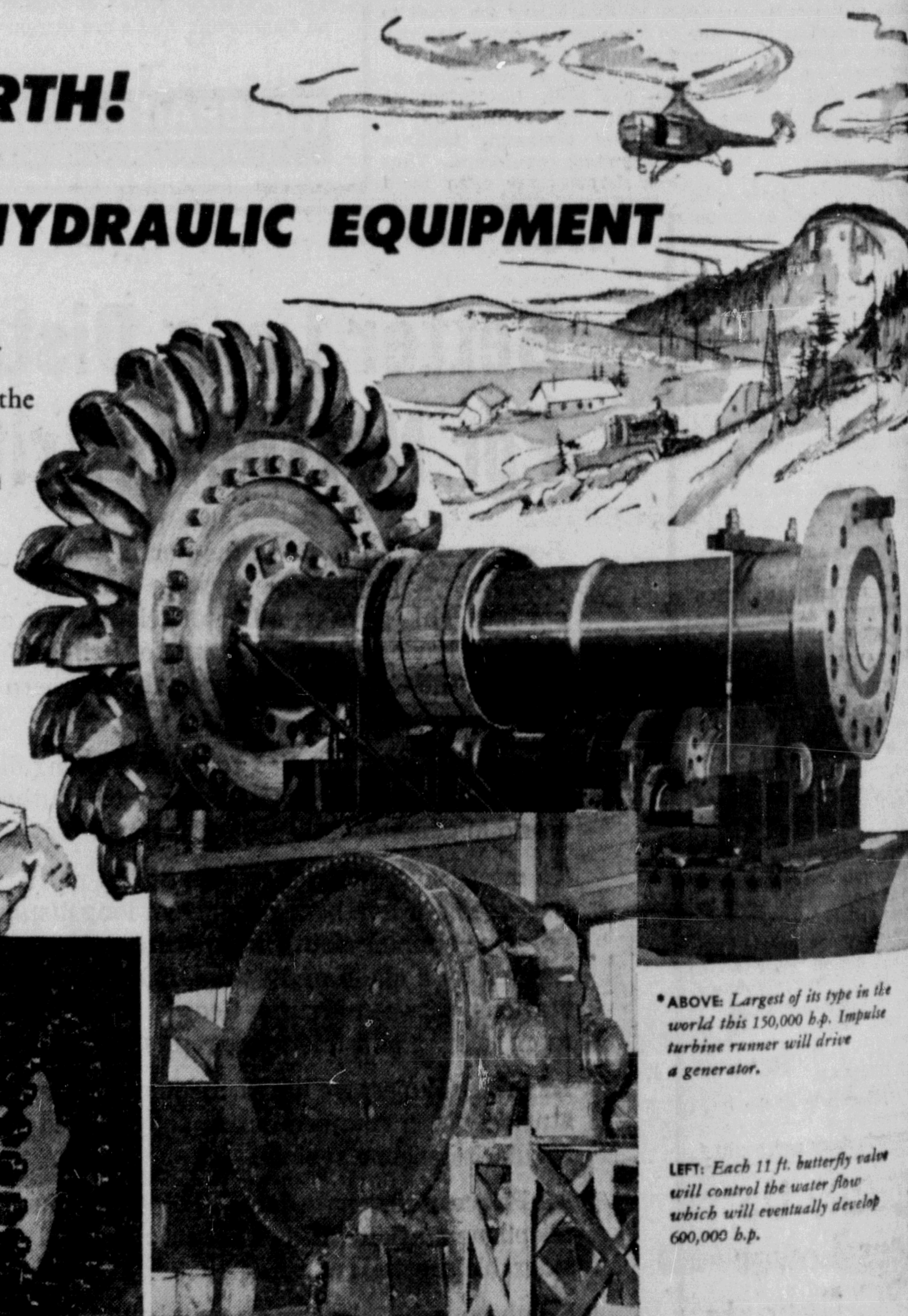
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