

WATERWAYS COMMISSION TO STUDY WATER-POWER SITUATION.

Provision of Rivers and Harbors Bill Gives Broad Powers to Proposed New Commission.

By the terms of the new Rivers and Harbors Bill, which has been agreed upon by the Conference Committees, the President is authorized to establish a commission, to be known as the Waterways Commission, consisting of seven members, at least one of whom shall be chosen from the active or retired list of the Engineer Corps of the Army, at least one of whom shall be an expert hydraulic engineer from civil life, and the remaining five of whom may each be selected either from civil life or the public service. The duty of the commission will be to bring into co-ordination and co-operation the engineering, scientific and constructive service, bureaus, boards and commissions of the several governmental departments of the United States and commissions created by Congress that relate to the study, development or control of waterways and water resources and subjects related thereto, or to the development and regulation of interstate and foreign commerce, with a view to uniting such services in investigating, with respect to all watersheds in the United States, questions relating to the development, improvement, regulation and control of navigation as a part of interstate and foreign commerce, including therein the related questions of irrigation, drainage, forestry, arid and swamp land reclamation, clarification of streams, regulation of flow, control of floods, utilization of water power, prevention of soil erosion and waste, storage and conservation of water for agricultural, industrial, municipal and domestic uses, co-operation of railways and waterways, and promotion of terminal and transfer facilities, to secure the necessary data, and to formulate and report to Congress, as early as practicable, a comprehensive plan or plans for the development of waterways and the water resources of the United States for the purposes of navigation and for every useful purpose, and recommendations for the modification or discontinuance of any project herein or heretofore adopted.

PALACE OF AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENTS AND WHAT IT WILL PORTRAY.

Educational Purpose and Scope of Bronx International Exposition.

The Palace of American Achievements will constitute a conspicuous feature of the Bronx International Exposition, which will open May 30, 1918, at East 177th Street subway station and the Bronx River, New York City. The building to be occupied for this purpose will be the largest on the Exposition grounds. In it will be exhibited the earliest models of inventions which have made famous the American scientists.

Exposition representatives are digging up and securing early models of electrical apparatus, automobiles, typewriters, talking machines, aeroplanes, telephones, moving-picture machines, sewing machines, and other inventions representing the triumphs of American genius, for exhibit in this Palace of American Achievements; and the inventions of more recent years will not be omitted.

The Bronx International Exposition is to be a permanent enterprise, conducted along lines similar to those of Shepard's Bush and Earl's Court in London,

but the Bronx Exposition will have special features for each year. During the first year, for example, the 300th anniversary of the settlement of the Borough of the Bronx will be commemorated.

The primary purpose of the Exposition is educational, and to this end will be exhibited the latest and greatest triumphs of man's handiwork along artistic, scientific and industrial lines, portraying its progress and development. Fifteen exhibit buildings are now under construction and other buildings for concessions, entertainment and convention purposes are to be built, as well as a swimming pool and bathing pavilion, to be the largest in the world.

NEW ELECTRIFICATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY ST. PAUL.

Additional Section of 211 Miles to Make Total of 651 Miles Operated Electrically.

Electrification through the Cascade mountains on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad is in full swing and it will be only a short time before the St. Paul's second electrified zone will be in operation. This is the news brought to Chicago by C. A. Goodnow, vice-president of the railway, who has just returned from the West. Mr. Goodnow, who had charge of the first electrification through the Rockies, is directing the new undertaking through the Cascades.

That the St. Paul has under way the electrification of its line through the last of the great mountain ranges hardly a year after completion of its first zone is regarded among railway men as confirming the wisdom of the St. Paul management in this undertaking.

The St. Paul will spend several millions in the Cascades. The electrification from Othello, Wash., to Seattle and Tacoma will add 211 miles to the electric lines, making a total of 651 miles under operation from mountain water-generated power. This gives the St. Paul, in addition to being one of the longest railway systems, the distinction of being the longest electric railway in the United States and probably in the world.

Eight substations will be built in the new zone for delivery of the current to the railway, located at Taunton, Doris, Kittitas, Hyak, the east portal of the Snoqualmie tunnel, Cedar Falls, Black River junction and the Tacoma shops.

Views of Steam-Turbine Stations.

To illustrate an article dealing with the value of electrical securities, which appeared in our last issue, use was made of several views of modern steam-turbine stations, the idea being to show graphically the character of the average central-station plant upon which securities are issued.

Since the publication of these photographs a number of inquiries have been received regarding the locations of the plants illustrated. The views on page 222 showed the Riverside station of the Minneapolis General Electric Company, equipped with Allis-Chalmers units; the Waterside station of the Louisville Gas & Electric Company, equipped with General Electric units; and the Seattle Municipal plant. On page 223 were shown exterior views of the Minneapolis and Louisville plants and an interior view of the Empire District Electric Company's plant, equipped with Westinghouse units and a view of the Rankin plant of the Duquesne Light Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., also equipped with Westinghouse units.