

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

December 25, 1958

The problem at the Crystal Falls Power Plant at the Falls Location on the Paint River has finally been remedied. The gates that control the flow of water past the turbines that drives the generators have been frozen and could not be closed. Water to each turbine is controlled by two gates; the largest of these is a 10' square metal plate on the reservoir side. With the tremendous pressure created by the water rushing past the gate it cannot be closed unless the smaller gate at the downstream side is closed. The problem exists because for unknown reasons the smaller gate will not close. Under direction of a power engineer hired by the City, the City Electrical Department crew was finally successful in getting the gates closed. It turned out the trouble was not with the gates but with two large bolts which had worked loose from the turbine vanes which control their pitch. The bolts which have been submerged in water since their installation in 1927 were replaced fixing the situation.