

Rural Electrical Service in Ontario.—During the past few years substantial progress has been made in Ontario in the field of rural electrification, and the Commission's rural operations are now an important feature of its work. Towards this rural work the Ontario Government, pursuant to its policy of promoting the basic industry of agriculture, contributes, in the form of "grants-in-aid", 50 p.c. of the initial capital cost of distribution lines and equipment. In 1930 the Ontario Legislature passed two additional Acts relating to rural service. The Rural Power District Loans Act, 1930, provides for advances up to \$1,000 to actual farm owners of lands and premises in rural power districts, for the installation of electrical wiring and the purchase of equipment. The Rural Power District Service Charge Act, 1930, provides for the fixing of low maximum service charges for all classes of rural service. In Table 14 will be found statistics relating to rural electrical distribution systems operated by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. A steady rate of increase is apparent from these statistics.

14.—Statistics Relating to Electrical Service in Rural Power Districts Operated by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, years ended Oct. 31, 1931-35.

NOTE.—Re rural power district legislation, consult the following Ontario Government publications: *The Power Commission Act* (R.S.O., 1927, c. 57); *The Rural Hydro-Electric Distribution Act*; (R.S.O., 1927, c. 59); *The Rural Power District Loans Act, 1930* (20 Geo. V, c. 14); and *The Rural District Service Charge Act, 1930* (20 Geo. V, c. 15).

Item.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Numbers of rural power districts.....	167	172	171	171	171
Numbers of townships served.....	338	358	365	367	368
Numbers of consumers.....	55,600	59,534	61,845	63,840	67,802
Miles of primary distribution lines.....	8,197	8,918	9,174	9,461	9,976
Horse-power supplied.....	31,790	32,853	32,372	33,949	37,190
Revenues from customers..... \$	2,456,989	2,752,353	2,796,023	2,832,672	2,902,809
Total expenses..... \$	2,354,792	2,776,192	2,904,612	2,908,967	2,875,498
Net surpluses..... \$	102,197	-23,838	-108,589	-76,295	27,311
Capital invested, totals..... \$	15,507,583	16,964,227	17,693,875	18,307,511	19,182,265
Provincial grants-in-aid, totals ^a \$	7,677,842	8,393,308	8,752,993	9,054,080	9,489,671

^a Included in previous item, "Capital invested".

Subsection 2.—Hydro-Electric and Power Commissions in Other Provinces.

Quebec.—The Quebec Streams Commission, originally created by 1 Geo. V, c. 5, and given additional powers by 3 Geo. V, c. 6 (see R.S.Q., 1925, c. 46), and by 20 Geo. V, c. 34, is authorized to ascertain the water resources of the province, to make recommendations regarding their control, and to construct certain storage dams and operate them so as to regulate the flow of streams. The Commission has not undertaken the direct production of electric power, but has assisted companies engaged in such work by a systematic collection of data on the flow of the principal rivers and on the meteorological conditions, by investigation of numerous water-power sites and determination of the longitudinal profile of a large number of rivers, but mostly by the regulation of the flow of the principal power streams, thereby increasing very materially the amount of power available. This regulation is obtained by constructing storage dams holding water in large reservoirs during flood periods and using it to increase the flow at low-water periods.

The Commission has built storage reservoirs on the St. Maurice river, where the low-water flow has been increased from 6,000 second-feet to 18,000 second-feet,