

Statistics of Urban Municipal Electrical Utilities of Ontario Supplied by the Commission.—Statistics of the assets and liabilities of the electrical departments of urban municipalities served by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission show, for 1938, total assets of \$166,327,665, as compared with liabilities of \$36,551,689. Of the difference, \$69,652,380 was allotted as reserves, leaving a surplus of \$60,123,596. In computing the percentage of net debt to total assets, the equity in Hydro systems is not taken into account. Between 1933 and 1938 total assets increased by \$30,548,995, while total liabilities decreased by \$13,369,065.

*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 Government passed legislation providing 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 and providing for the fixing of low maximum service charges for all classes of rural service.

15.—Statistics Relating to Electrical Service to Rural Power Districts Operated by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, Years Ended Oct. 31, 1934-38.

Item.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Rural power districts..... No.	171	171	174	177	178
Townships served..... "	367	368	380	388	398
Consumers..... "	63,840	67,802	73,614	86,194	99,921
Primary distribution lines..... miles	9,461	9,976	10,808	13,117	15,784
Power supplied..... h.p.	33,949	37,190	42,897	50,758	59,153
Revenues from customers..... \$	2,832,672	2,902,809	3,000,750	3,087,001	3,547,899
Total expenses..... \$	2,908,967	2,875,498	2,891,007	2,989,637	3,484,698
Net surpluses..... \$	-76,295	27,311	109,743	97,364	63,201
Capital invested, totals..... \$	18,307,511	19,182,265	20,674,674	24,138,729	28,561,214
Provincial grants-in-aid, totals ¹ \$	9,054,080	9,489,671	10,232,099	11,951,892	14,149,697

¹ Included in "Capital invested".

Manitoba.—The Manitoba Power Commission commenced its operations in 1919 under the authority of the Electrical Power Transmission Act. This Act empowered the Commission to make provision for generating electric energy, to enter into contracts for the purchase of power in bulk from generating agencies, and for its transmission and sale to municipalities, corporations, and individuals. Legislation was passed in 1929 by which the Government undertook to pay interest charges and sinking fund charges on an amount not exceeding 50 p.c. of the capital cost of the construction and erection of equipment required for the generation and transmission of electric energy. In 1931 passage of the Electrical Power Transmission Act reorganized the administration of the Commission by establishing a Board vested with additional authority.

The first transmission line was completed in 1920 to serve the City of Portage la Prairie. With this City as a nucleus, the lines were rapidly extended over the more densely populated areas of the Province. The Commission now serves 141

* Legislation passed concerning rural power is as follows: *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).