

Quebec and wide powers respecting service, equipment, apparatus, means of protection, extensions of plant and systems, as well as control of rates and capitalization. The approval of the Board is required for the construction or operation of new plants, transmission lines, networks or systems or any part thereof and all sales or mergers are subject to the consent of the Board. The Board also has supervisory and advisory functions under the Electricity Municipalization Act, which enables municipal corporations to establish electricity systems. Two or more municipalities may establish a joint system. Where such systems receive their current from a public service corporation, the Board has mandatory powers in regard to the supply of current and the terms under which it is supplied. The Board may recommend a subsidy of 50 p.c. of the capital cost of rural electrification systems, to be paid from provincial funds, and furthermore a loan of 25 p.c. of such capital cost for a period of 30 years, with interest at 4 p.c. Any rural municipality that has availed itself of these benefits is authorized, with the approval of the Board, to enter into a contract with any public service for the purchase of power, the erection of lines, the operation and maintenance of the system and all other services.

**Ontario.**—*The Hydro-Electric Power Commission.*—An account of the inception and operations of the Commission is given at pp. 377-378 of the 1940 Year Book.

To meet the constantly expanding power demands of the undertaking, the Commission has constructed its own generating plants, and has acquired several privately owned generating plants. Of the 45 hydro-electric power plants operated by the Commission in 1939, the largest is the Queenston-Chippawa development on the Niagara River, which was constructed by the Commission and has a normal operating capacity of 500,000 h.p. Provision for the needs of the near future has been made—including existing plants, plants under construction, and power under contract for present and future delivery—up to an aggregate of about 2,350,000 h.p.

*Hydro-Electric Power Commission Statistics.*—The Canada Year Book of 1910, (p. xliii) described the turning on, at Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario, on Oct. 11, 1910, of electric energy generated by Niagara Falls. The small initial load of less than 1,000 h.p. increased rapidly and by 1915 had reached 100,000 h.p. In 1920 the total power distributed exceeded 350,000 h.p., and in 1930 it was over 1,260,000 h.p.

The Annual Reports of the Commission present in great detail descriptions and statistics of operation, construction, municipal work and transmission and distribution. The Commission exercises supervisory functions over the electrical utilities owned and operated by the partner-municipalities and has introduced a uniform accounting system that enables the Commission to present consolidated balance sheets and operation reports. These statistics relate to about 90 p.c. of the retail customers supplied by the undertaking.

The initial capital expenditure required to serve about twelve municipalities amounted to approximately \$3,600,000. At Oct. 31, 1939, the total capital investment amounted to \$446,122,545, of which \$321,214,964 were investments by the Commission in generation plants, transmission systems, etc., including electric railway and other properties operated by the Commission for the major systems under their control and \$124,907,581 were investments by municipalities in local distributing systems of their own, including other assets. Similarly, total reserves of the Commission and of the municipal electrical utilities for sinking fund, renewals, contingencies and insurance purposes amounted to \$216,405,116 of which \$125,739,024 represented reserves of the Commission and \$90,666,092 of the municipalities.