

**Manitoba.**—*The Manitoba Power Commission.*—The 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.

The Act was patterned after Ontario legislation governing the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and, until 1932, the Commission in Manitoba functioned in much the same way; it owned and operated transmission lines and substations, and sold power in bulk to the municipalities. The municipalities in turn took care of the cost of distribution and retailed power to individuals. However, many factors combined to unduly burden the municipalities which necessitated a change in the method of operation, and the decision was made to serve the consumers direct.

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. The passage of the Electrical Power Transmission Act, 1931, permitted the re-organization of the administration of the Commission by the establishment of a Board vested with additional authority. This Act was amended in 1940 to give the Commission control of its own finances.

The capital invested in the Province by the Commission is approximately \$8,000,000. At the close of the fiscal year 1940 the reserves, as represented by first-class securities, amounted to \$2,302,000.

The system is supervised and maintained by 44 district supervisors, located throughout the territory served. Appliance showrooms are established at Brandon and Portage la Prairie, and the Commission enters actively into the appliance merchandising field. It also operates a central steam-heating system and a gas plant at Brandon.

As a result of sales and educational policies, together with the economies enforced, the Commission has been able to progressively reduce rates for service and has established a low uniform basic rate for all towns on the network.

*Extension of Facilities to Municipalities.*—The first municipality to make application for power was Portage la Prairie and the construction of a transmission line from Winnipeg was commenced in the autumn of 1919. The line was completed in August of 1920 and the first service provided by the Commission was extended to Portage la Prairie at that time.

During 1920 a branch line running south from Oakville was commenced and in 1921 was completed to Morden, giving service to Carman, Morden and Roland districts. Also during 1920 an existing hydro-electric plant at Minnedosa was purchased and the construction of a diesel-engine plant to provide additional capacity at that point was undertaken. Construction of a second diesel plant at Virden was begun the same year. Both of these plants were placed in service in 1921.

Since that time, extensions have been made annually with the single exception of 1933. The system now serves 151 cities, towns and villages, and approximately 600 farm homes. The transmission network now comprises over 1,980 circuit miles of line, providing service for almost 20,000 customers.