

jurisdiction over the distribution and sale of electricity. The Board has general power to hold investigation upon complaint made either by a municipality or by a utility company and, following such investigation, may fix just and reasonable rates.

Edmonton generates power from coal and operates its own distribution system; in addition, there is a reciprocal arrangement with the Calgary Power Company Limited for exchange of power at peak periods. Medicine Hat owns its generating and distributing systems (power being derived from natural gas), and also supplies the adjoining town of Redcliff. The town of Cardston also owns its own power plant. Lethbridge has an arrangement respecting power with the Calgary Power Company; the city owns a power plant that is used for the generation of power on an exchange basis with, and as a stand-by plant for, the Calgary Power Company. Calgary and Red Deer own their distribution systems but purchase power from the Calgary Power Company.

Most of the principal towns and villages in the Province, other than those already mentioned, are served either by the Calgary Power Company Limited or by Canadian Utilities Limited under franchise agreements and, in addition, there are a very large number of small privately owned power plants in towns and villages beyond the reach of the power lines of the former company.

The Calgary Power Company generates its hydro-electric power at Ghost River, west of Calgary, and has recently obtained a licence from the Dominion Government to develop further power at Lake Minnewanka. The Calgary Power Company has stand-by steam plants at Calgary and at Lethbridge.

The principal plant of Canadian Utilities Limited, is located at Drumheller, power being generated by steam. It services a large number of towns to the north and northeast of Drumheller; in some communities not accessible to its lines, it operates individual diesel-engine plants.

British Columbia.—Public ownership of central electric stations in the Province of British Columbia is limited to municipalities incorporated under the Municipal Act and to improvement districts incorporated under the provisions of the Water Act. Several cities have installed their own generating stations mostly driven by water power but the majority purchase the energy at wholesale rates from privately owned systems and distribute the energy in their respective areas.

The Public Utilities Commission regulates the rates charged by privately owned utilities but not those owned by municipalities.

Subsection 3.—Private Ownership of Central Electric Stations

Of the total amount of electricity generated in Canada by central electric stations, privately owned or commercial stations generated 22,287,270,000 kwh. in 1940 or 74.0 p.c. of all stations. In 1929 the amount generated by these stations was 71.0 p.c. of the total. In the latest ten years, the installed horse-power increased by 45.8 p.c. and output of electric energy by 72.3 p.c.