

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 1943, total assets of \$194,368,190, as compared with liabilities of \$19,094,241. Of the difference, \$99,619,542 was allotted as reserves, leaving a surplus of \$75,654,407. In computing the percentage of net debt to total assets, the equity in Hydro systems is not taken into account. Between 1933 and 1943 total assets increased by \$58,589,521 while total liabilities decreased by \$30,826,513.

*Rural Electrical Service in Ontario.**—During past 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 agriculture—the basic industry—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. For the duration of the War non-essential rural service has been suspended, unless such service will increase the production of foodstuffs.

15.—Electrical Service to Rural Power Districts Operated by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, Years Ended Oct. 31, 1939-43

Item	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Rural power districts..... No.	184	184	184	120	120
Townships served..... "	419	448	465	467	467
Consumers..... "	113,157	123,022	131,524	135,106	136,341
Primary distribution lines..... miles	18,166	19,492	20,104	20,072	20,119
Power supplied..... h. p.	68,433	76,105	88,796	84,032	88,878
Revenues from customers..... \$	4,136,088	4,693,125	5,179,552	5,484,475	5,618,695
Total expenses..... \$	4,084,201	4,619,454	4,965,343	5,348,154	5,297,242
Net surpluses..... \$	51,887	73,671	214,209	136,321	321,453
Capital invested..... \$	33,476,148	36,615,083	38,812,593	39,295,995	39,494,638
Provincial grants-in-aid!..... \$	16,596,671	18,148,898	19,237,773	19,480,391	19,580,576

! 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.

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 which took care of the cost of distribution and retailed power to individuals.

The Manitoba Power Commission Act of 1931 permitted the re-organization of the administration of the utility by the establishment of a Commission of three men. This Commission decided that the policy of selling power direct to each con-

* 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).