

Alberta.—Public ownership of power-generating and distributing systems in Alberta is confined to certain urban municipalities. The regulatory authority over privately owned systems is the Board of Public Utility Commissioners, which has 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.

Two privately owned utilities are the chief sources of power for the municipalities. One has in operation four hydro-electric power plants totalling 91,000 h.p. on the Bow River and tributaries west of Calgary, with supplementary storage at Lake Minnewanka and Upper Kananaskis Lake totalling 240,000 acre feet. It operates, under lease, the city of Calgary's 14,000 h.p. steam plant, and has interchange arrangements and transmission line ties with the city of Edmonton and the city of Lethbridge. The other is located at the city of Drumheller, its power being generated by steam and 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.

Edmonton generates power from coal and operates its own distribution system; in addition, there is a reciprocal arrangement with one of the privately owned utilities for exchange of power at peak periods. Calgary and Red Deer own their distributing systems but purchase power from the same private source as Edmonton. Certain other large cities and towns such as Medicine Hat and Cardston own their power plants and those beyond reach of the two private utilities referred to above are served by small privately owned power plants.

British Columbia.—Public ownership of central electric stations in the Province of British Columbia has been limited to municipalities incorporated under the Municipal Act and to improvement districts incorporated under the provisions of the Water Act. Authority has been given to the Provincial Government by the Legislature to undertake the production, transmission and distribution of electric energy and it is expected that the Province will enter the public ownership field. 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 it 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

Summary statistics of privately owned central electric stations are given for the years 1930 to 1943 in Table 17.

17.—Privately Owned Central Electric Stations in Canada, 1930-43

Year	Power Plants	Customers	Electric Energy Generated	Power Equipment ¹	
				Water Wheels and Turbines	Total
				h.p.	h.p.
1930.....	421	745,608	12,937,014	3,690,095	3,914,474
1931.....	396	756,285	12,191,139	3,916,720	4,171,305
1932.....	402	776,400	12,338,216	4,426,235	4,704,523
1933.....	403	776,581	13,665,974	4,563,973	4,842,686

¹ Exclusive of auxiliary equipment.