

The Manitoba Power Commission Act of 1931 provided for the establishment of a Commission. The new Commission, comprised of 3 members, reorganized the administration of the utility by cancelling bulk contracts and beginning service direct to the consumer; municipalities and towns having contracts for street lighting only. This proved to be the turning point in the utility's development, making possible the adoption of a policy by which the Commission might eventually establish a standard rate for all towns and villages regardless of their distance from the source of supply or the sparsity of population. The tremendous expansion of the utility since 1933 shows the importance of this reorganization. In 1933 there were 65 cities, towns and villages on the System; in 1944, 2,154 circuit miles of transmission line served 157 cities, towns and villages. The revenue of the utility increased from \$820,107 in 1933 to over \$2,000,000 in 1944; kilowatt hours distributed from 16,928,294 in 1933 to 81,012,452 in 1944; and investment in reserves from \$216,558 in 1933 to \$4,976,432 in 1944.

In 1942 the Chairman of the Commission acted on the Manitoba Electrification Enquiry Commission to study the feasibility of farm electrification in the Province. It was found that, despite the fact farms are, on the average, more than a mile apart in Manitoba, it would be practicable to bring electrical service to 53,000 farms. As soon as materials were available construction began in the summer of 1945 to bring electricity to farms in seven districts chosen as farm electrification test areas. After analysing the information and experience gained by the test project, the Power Commission will be prepared to launch the province-wide program. In conjunction with the farm project the Commission will build lines to serve 200 villages.

The Commission operates a central steam-heating system and gas plant at Brandon as well as steam stand-by plants throughout the Province.

The utility enters actively into the appliance merchandising field as a service to customers and as part of a load-building program designed to raise revenue by increasing consumption which, in turn, will enable the utility to lower rates.

**Saskatchewan.**—The Saskatchewan Power Commission was established in 1929 under the Power Commission Act (R.S.S. 1940, c. 33) which authorized the Commission to manufacture, sell and supply electric energy, to acquire and develop water-power sites, to acquire or construct steam and oil plants, to construct transmission lines, to purchase power and to enter into contracts with municipalities for the supply of energy.

The Commission's main system is centred on its generating plant at Saskatoon. North Battleford and Swift Current also have generating plants owned and operated by the Commission. Electric energy is furnished in bulk to the city corporations, which own and operate their own distribution systems. In the town of Battleford, electric energy is supplied by the Commission, in bulk, by transmission line from the Commission's plant at North Battleford. In all the municipal corporations on its system (203 in number, including those on the former system of Prairie Power Company Limited), the Commission supplies approximately 18,034 individual consumers directly and 16,341 indirectly. In 1945, 2,262 miles of transmission lines were owned and operated, including those taken over from Prairie Power Company Limited.