

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 first stretch of transmission line was completed in 1920 from Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie.

Power was purchased in bulk from the Winnipeg Hydro System for the first ten years. At the expiration of this period, the Seven Sisters Agreement between the Manitoba Government and the Winnipeg Electric Company provided for the reservation of a block of power for the Power Commission.

The Manitoba Power Commission Act of 1931 provided for the establishment of a three-member Commission. The new Commission reorganized the administration of the utility by cancelling bulk contracts and beginning service direct to the consumer and to municipalities and towns having contracts for street lighting only, thus making possible the adoption of a policy by which the Commission might eventually establish standard rates for all towns and villages regardless of distance from the source of supply or sparsity of population.

The tremendous expansion of the utility since 1931 shows the importance of this reorganization. In 1931 there were 56 cities, towns and villages on the System; over 200 communities were served in 1946. The revenue of the utility over the same period increased from \$700,000 to over \$2,000,000. Rate reductions, meanwhile, have reduced the average customer cost per kilowatt by 50 p.c. in the past 15 years.

The successful growth of the network to the majority of the cities, towns and villages of the Province, made it possible for the Commission to consider a project of extending electrical service to the farms.

The Manitoba Electrification Enquiry Commission appointed by the Government in 1942 to study the feasibility of farm electrification in the Province, reported that it would be practicable to bring electrical service to over 90 p.c. of the farms. The War prevented immediate execution of farm extension plans, but in 1945 sufficient materials were available to conduct a farm electrification test by which nearly 1,000 farms received electrical service. The success of the test led the Commission to plan extension at the rate of at least 5,000 farms annually. However, shortage of materials restricted 1946 construction to 1,500 farms and, for the same reason, it is expected that 1947 construction will be limited to 2,500 farms.

The Commission 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 permit the lowering of 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,