

ment, pursuant to its policy of promoting agriculture—a 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, the purchase of equipment and providing for the fixing of low maximum service charges for all classes of rural Hydro service.

New Uniform Rural Rate Structure.—A new uniform rural rate structure, for the sale of energy, was placed in effect on Jan. 1, 1944, for all rural Hydro service throughout the Province, and replaced the numerous rural rate schedules previously in effect.

The new energy rates consist, essentially, of a three-step energy charge as follows:

- (1) A first block or number of kilowatt-hours of energy consumption in the billing period, charged for at 3½ cents gross per kilowatt-hour;
- (2) A second block or number of kilowatt-hours of energy consumption in the billing period, charged for at 1.6 cents gross per kilowatt-hour; and
- (3) All remaining kilowatt-hours of energy consumption in the billing period, charged for at 0.75 cents gross per kilowatt-hour.

In addition, the service charge in use prior to Jan. 1, 1944, has been eliminated in the case of farm and commercial service, reduced by 50 per cent in the case of hamlet service and changed to an annual fixed charge in the case of summer service.

19.—Electrical Service to Rural Power Districts Operated by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, Years Ended Oct. 31, 1943-46

Item	1943	1944	1945	1946
Rural power districts..... No.	120	120	121	92
Townships served..... "	467	467	468	469
Customers..... "	136,341	146,633	159,608	177,605
Primary distribution lines..... miles	20,119	21,023	22,309	23,663
Power supplied..... h.p.	88,878	100,514	128,345	164,424
Revenues from customers..... \$	5,618,695	5,666,392	6,094,010	7,203,192
Total expenses..... \$	5,297,242	5,235,814	5,795,063	7,146,610
Net surpluses..... \$	321,453	430,578	298,947	56,582
Capital invested..... \$	39,494,638	41,257,200	44,536,481	49,296,971
Provincial grants-in-aid..... \$	19,580,576	20,426,487	22,022,424	24,391,321

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.

For the first ten years power was purchased in bulk from the Winnipeg Hydro Electric System. 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.