

The Manitoba Power Commission Act of 1931 provided for the reorganization of the utility's administration. Bulk contracts were cancelled and service begun direct to the consumer, municipalities and towns having contracts for street lighting only. This made 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 the sparseness of population.

The expansion of the utility since 1931 shows the importance of this reorganization. In 1931 there were 56 cities, towns and villages on the System; 243 communities were served in 1947. Revenue increased from \$700,000 to over \$2,000,000. Rate reductions, meanwhile, have reduced the average customer cost per kilowatt-hour 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 electric service to the farms. The Manitoba Electrification Enquiry Commission appointed by the Provincial Government in 1942 to study farm electrification in the Province, reported electric service could be brought to at least 90 p.c. of the farms in the Province. It was estimated this project would involve the construction of 40,000 miles of transmission line at a cost of \$35,000,000.

Previously, individual or small groups of farms situated near existing low voltage transmission lines were connected on a contributory basis.

Construction under the farm program began on an experimental basis in 1945 when transmission lines were built to serve 674 farms in seven test areas. Under the farm electrification program the Commission bears the expense of building the power line right into the farm-yard, the farmer being responsible for his yard and interior wiring, and for the purchase of appliances. Construction was to proceed at the rate of 5,000 farms annually, but post-war shortage of line materials restricted this to 1,500 farms in 1946 and 3,500 in 1947.

Substitution of Manitoba jack-pine poles and the establishment of a transformer factory and the development of miscellaneous pole-line hardware manufactures in the Province, enabled the Commission, in 1948, to return to the original plan of construction to 5,000 farms. Estimated expenditure in 1948 for the farm program is \$4,000,000.

In conjunction with the farm program, the Commission is constructing lines to serve every community having a population of at least 20 persons, located within the practical service area of the Province. Following the connection of 103 communities scheduled to receive service during 1948 and 1949, 346 cities, towns, villages and hamlets will be supplied with power by the Commission.

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 oil and steam plants, to construct transmission lines, to purchase power and to enter into contracts with municipalities for the supply of electric energy.

During the years 1929 to 1945, the Commission purchased certain generating plants, and constructed and purchased transmission lines and also distribution systems in towns and villages. These were improved, enlarged or supplemented. Particulars of these acquisitions and constructions are given in the 1941 Year Book and subsequent editions.