

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.

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; 281 communities were served in 1948. Revenue increased from \$700,000 to over \$3,284,000. Rate reductions, meanwhile, have reduced the average customer cost per kilowatt-hour by 50 p.c.

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. 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. Post-war shortage of line materials restricted this program 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 annually.

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