Subsection 1.—Statistics of Central Electric Stations*

The growth of the central electric stations industry has been almost continuous since 1919, when statistics of kilowatt hours generated were first made available. The depression that occurred in the early 1930's resulted in decreased production of power during those years but output soon recovered. During the war years 1939-44 the equipment was used to maximum capacity, the output increasing by 42 p.c. from 1938 to 1944. Production declined slightly in 1945 but rebounded in 1946 to 102 p.c. of the 1944 figure. During 1947 a new record was established which was nearly equalled in 1948 and was surpassed in 1949 by nearly 4 p.c.

The central electric stations industry is one that is particularly suited to large-scale operations because of the huge outlays of capital necessary. Capital invested and total horse-power installed increased almost continuously even during the depression years, mainly because large power projects, planned before the depression, were in process of construction. Off-peak and surplus power, used mainly in electric boilers of pulp and paper plants, grew steadily to a peak of 7,803,000,000 kwh. in 1937 but, owing to war requirements for firm power, it was reduced during 1940-45, and soared to a new high of 8,067,489,000 kwh. in 1946. In 1947, secondary power consumption was reduced to 5,595,344,000 kwh. to 2,303,987,000 kwh. in 1948 as increased primary demand and low water levels left less available for off-peak use, and recovered to 2,839,940,000 kwh. in 1949.

6.—Summary Statistics of Central Electric Stations, 1939-48

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1917-31 will be found at p. 369 of the 1940 Year Book; for 1932-38 figures see p. 564 of the 1950 edition.

Year	Stations	Capital Invested	Revenue from Sale of Power[1]	Power Equipment Capacity[2]	Kilowatt Hours Generated	Customers	Persons Employed	Salaries and Wages
	No.	$	$	h.p.	'000	No.	No.	$
1939.....	611	1,564,603,211	151,880,969	7,607,122	28,338,030	1,941,663	18,848	28,223,376
1940.....	602	1,615,438,140	166,228,773	7,935,867	30,109,283	2,006,508	19,054	28,895,595
1941.....	607	1,641,460,451	186,080,354	8,157,585	33,317,663	2,081,270	19,880	31,647,952
1942.....	616	1,747,891,798	203,914,608	8,613,696	37,355,179	2,125,558	19,764	34,285,870
1943.....	622	1,778,224,640	204,801,508	9,602,794	40,479,593	2,169,148	19,120	35,785,932
1944.....	626	[3]	215,246,391	9,713,791	40,598,779	2,238,023	19,770	36,945,296
1945.....	600	[3]	215,105,473	9,666,947	40,130,054	2,333,230	21,283	39,521,365
1946.....	600	[3]	226,096,273	9,825,459	41,736,987	2,476,830	24,577	46,422,998
1947.....	607	[3]	238,929,627	9,601,157	43,424,799	2,643,327	26,704	67,417,317
1948.....	635	[3]	257,377,490	10,038,541	42,389,681	2,822,027	29,349	68,765,222

[1] Excluding duplications. [2] Not including auxiliary-plant equipment. [3] Not collected after 1943.

Although the amount of power used by domestic customers or for residential purposes is now only 10 p.c. of the total production of central electric stations, this service is exceedingly important. Details of the number of domestic customers served, the kilowatt hours delivered and the costs to the customers, exclusive of direct federal, provincial and municipal taxes on such service, are shown in Table 7. The average consumption per customer and average cost per kilowatt hour vary considerably as between municipalities and also as between provinces; there are smaller differences between the average bills. The average charge per kwh. is one of the lowest in any country.

* Revised in the Public Finance and Transportation Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.