

*Statistics of Urban Municipal Electrical Utilities of Ontario Served by the Commission.*—In the 1949 Annual Report of the Commission detailed consolidated balance sheets and operating reports are given for the 315 urban electrical utilities served.

The balance sheet shows that the total plant value has increased from \$10,081,469 in 1913 to \$136,745,779 in 1949, and the total assets from \$11,907,827 to \$274,484,001. The liabilities have not increased in the same proportion as the assets, rising from \$10,468,352 to a maximum of \$52,685,317 in 1932, and receding to \$14,139,918 in 1949, due to the regular fulfilment of debt retirement schedules under serial debenture provisions or by maturity of sinking funds, and because cost of the increasing plant value has been financed mainly out of reserves and surplus without increasing the capital liabilities of the respective utilities.

The operating report for 1949 shows that of the 315 municipal electrical utilities included in this statement, 306 received from consumers sufficient revenue to meet all operating expenses, interest, debt retirement instalments and standard depreciation reserve allocation, and to yield an aggregate net surplus of \$3,251,849 for the year; the other nine utilities were able to defray out of revenue all such charges, except \$55,160 of the standard depreciation allocation.

*Rural Electrical Service in Ontario.*\*—During past years substantial progress has been made in Ontario in the field of rural electrification, and the Commission's rural operations are now an important feature of its work. The Ontario Government, pursuant to its policy of promoting agriculture contributes, in the form of 'grants-in-aid', 50 p.c. of the initial capital cost of distribution lines and equipment.

*Uniform Rural Rate Structure.*—A uniform rural rate structure, for the sale of energy, became effective Jan. 1, 1944, for all rural Hydro service in Ontario.

Whereas this uniform structure has been maintained, the energy rates were changed in 1945 and 1950 so that beginning May 1, 1950, the energy rates consist of the following three-step energy charge:—

- (1) A first block or number of kilowatt-hours of energy consumption in the billing period, charged for at 4·4 cents gross per kwh.;
- (2) a second block or number of kilowatt-hours of energy consumption in the billing period, charged for at 2·1 cents gross per kwh.;
- (3) all remaining kilowatt-hours of energy consumption in the billing period, charged for at 1·1 cents gross per kwh.

In addition, the service charge in use prior to Jan. 1, 1944, has been eliminated in the case of farm, commercial and hamlet service. Summer service carries an annual service charge in addition to the energy charge.

*Farm Rate.*—More than 95 p.c. of the farms receiving Hydro service are served at the minimum demand rating for billing purposes of 3 kw. This is a three-wire service with a breaker or fuse rating of 35 amperes on each side of the neutral. The first energy rate of 4·4 cents per kwh. applies to the first 60 kwh. per month. The second energy rate of 2·1 cents per kwh. applies to the next 180 kwh. per month. For all remaining energy consumption in the billing period the rate is 1·1 cents per kwh. The minimum bill is \$2·25 per month. A prompt payment discount of 10 p.c. is made on the total bill.

\* Legislation passed concerning rural power is as follows: the Power Commission Act (R.S.O. 1937, c. 62); the Rural Hydro-Electric Distribution Act (R.S.O. 1937, c. 64); and the Rural Power District Service Charge Act (R.S.O. 1937, c. 66).