

Canadian Utilities, Limited.—Towns and villages northeast of Drumheller are supplied from a 13,500 kw. steam plant in that city by Canadian Utilities, Limited, while towns and villages north and east of Vegreville are served from a new gas-fired 7,500 kw. steam plant at Vermilion. There are also diesel stand-by plants at Lloydminster and a tie-line with Calgary Power, Limited, near Holden. This utility also serves the areas around Grande Prairie from a 2,300 h.p. diesel-engine plant located in that centre. The Company serves over 16,000 customers, in approximately 100 towns, villages and hamlets in the Province, through a network of approximately 1,080 miles of transmission lines.

In 1949, the Company embarked on a program of extending its lines to farmers on a co-operative basis. Energy is supplied at the individual meters at 2 cts. per kilowatt hour and the Company also collects from the farmers \$3.50 per month, against which it charges the operating and depreciation costs involved. In effect, the system is constructed and operated at cost for the farmer.

Northland Utilities, Limited.—This Company, with headquarters at Edmonton, supplies electric energy to 4,450 consumers in 22 northern communities. Diesel generating plants are located at Jasper, Mayerthorpe, Athabasca, High Prairie, McLennan, Peace River and Chauvin. Low-voltage transmission lines extending from these generating stations supply electricity to 120 farms and 13 villages.

In addition to the diesel generating stations, the Company, in 1948, constructed a 665 kva. hydro plant on the Astoria River in Jasper National Park for the Department of Mines and Resources. The Company also serves the communities of Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupé and Rolla in the Peace River Block of British Columbia.

Other Privately Owned Utilities.—Edmonton generates power from coal and operates its own distribution system; in addition, there is a reciprocal arrangement with Calgary Power, Limited, for exchange of power at peak periods. Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Macleod, Cardston and Ponoka own their distributing systems but purchase power from Calgary Power, Limited. Medicine Hat owns a power plant and distribution system and furnishes power to the adjacent town of Redcliff. Villages and hamlets beyond the reach of the large utility companies are served by small privately owned power plants.

British Columbia.—The British Columbia Power Commission was appointed Apr. 17, 1945, under the provisions of the "Electric Power Act"—"an Act to provide for improving the availability and supply of electric power". Actual operations, however, were not commenced until August, 1945, with the acquisition of electrical properties in several parts of the Province. The following table shows the growth in number of customers up to the end of March, 1950:—

<i>Period Ended Mar. 31—</i>	<i>Services Acquired</i>	<i>Services Installed</i>	<i>Total Services for Period</i>	<i>Cumulative Services to End of Period</i>
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1946.....	13,270	832	14,102	14,102
1947.....	7,151	1,786	8,937	23,039
1948.....	1,000	3,431	4,431	27,470
1949.....	831	3,318	4,149	31,619
1950.....	4,686	3,321	8,007	39,626
TOTALS.....	26,938	12,688	39,626	135,856

This growth has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in generating capacity. At Mar. 31, 1946, the capacity of acquired plants totalled 10,355 kva. During the next four years the generating capacity was increased by 111,500 kva.