British Columbia.—The British Columbia Power Commission was appointed Apr. 17, 1945 under the provisions of the Provincial Electric Power Act. Operations were commenced in August 1945 with the acquisition of electrical properties in several parts of the Province. The following statement shows the growth in the number of customers from 1947 to April 1955:—

Year Ended Mar. 31	Services Acquired	Services Installed	Total Services for Period	Cumulative Services to End of Period
	No.	No.	No.	No.
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
1951	473	4,075	4,548	44,174
1952	103	2,600	2,703	45,912
Sold June 1951	−325	−640	−965	
1953	—	3,597	3,597	49,509
1954	—	3,264	3,264	52,773
1955	523	3,261	3,784	56,557

All phases of the Commission's operation continued to expand during the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1955. Greater milages of transmission and distribution lines were built than in any of the preceding three years and the additions in each type of circuit amounted to more than 10 p.c. of the previous totals. Power requirements increased by 18·3 p.c. over the previous year, an advance attributable almost equally to the energy needs of the power districts and the bulk sales customers. These figures correspond closely with the revenue growth from the two classifications and together average 15·8 p.c. Average monthly residential power use reached 233 kwh., an increase of 14 p.c. over 1954, and well over three times the figure of 74 kwh. recorded at the end of March 1947. Expenditures increased by 15·3 p.c. which compares favourably with the 15·8 p.c. rise in revenues for the period. The resulting operating surplus was $652,188, an increase of 22·8 p.c. over the 1953-54 operating surplus.

Construction of two hydro-electric plants was completed in May 1955. The Puntledge River Development near Courtenay, Vancouver Island, adds 35,000 h.p. to the Commission's Vancouver Island system, heretofore served entirely by the 168,000 h.p. John Hart Development on Campbell River. Another Vancouver Island hydro development is under way on Campbell River. An initial installation of two generating units with a total capacity of 70,000 h.p. is scheduled for completion in the latter half of 1956, with a third 35,000 h.p. unit to follow later. A storage dam farther up Campbell River, at Upper Campbell Lake, has been authorized and is slated for completion in 1957, with additional storage and 70,000 h.p. generating capacity to follow at the same site in 1958.

The 5,500 h.p. Spillimacheen River Development replaced two diesel electric stations serving the Columbia Valley.

Expansion of diesel electric stations that serve areas where it is neither feasible nor possible to provide power from a hydro source continues, together with transmission and distribution extensions, as load growth indicates.

24.—Growth of the British Columbia Power Commission, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1951-55

Item	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Customers.....No.	44,174	45,912	49,509	52,773	56,577
Installed plant capacity.....kw.	100,350	123,845	124,415	174,255	176,866
Circuit Miles of Line—					
Transmission (high voltage)...miles	550	570	590	624	689
Distribution primaries ..... "	2,393	2,541	2,704	2,995	3,301
Power Requirements—					
Generated.....kwh.	255,556,217	375,935,761	524,502,927	687,158,106	812,793,062
Purchased..... "	11,932,279	2,817,547	2,350,721	9,962,128	12,016,339
Totals, Power Requirements. kwh.	**267,488,496**	**378,753,308**	**526,853,648**	**697,120,234**	**824,809,401**