

## Section 5.—Ownership and Regulation of Electrical Utilities\*

Power is generated in Canada by publicly and privately operated utilities and by industrial establishments. Table 10, pp. 605-606, giving statistics by type of establishment, shows that 48 p.c. of the total electric power generated in 1958 was produced by publicly operated utilities, 30 p.c. by privately operated utilities and 22 p.c. by industrial establishments. However, ownership differs greatly in different areas of the country. Quebec output, for instance, is predominantly from privately owned plants since a large portion of the power development in that province is connected with pulp and paper establishments and with the aluminum industry. In Ontario, on the other hand, almost all electric power is produced by a publicly owned utility, The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

Because of the absence of free market determination of prices and regulation of services in an industry that is semi-monopolistic, regulation of electrical utilities has been attempted in most provinces. The governing bodies of the provincial electric power commissions, their functions and activities are summarized in the following paragraphs. Certain privately owned utilities are also covered.

**Newfoundland.**—There are no publicly owned hydro-electric systems in Newfoundland. The largest water power development in the province is located at Deer Lake. The plant, which is operated by Bowater's Newfoundland Pulp and Paper Company Limited, has a total capacity of 154,000 hp. This Company develops hydro-electric energy at Deer Lake mainly for its own use in the manufacture of pulp and paper and also supplies electric power to the Buchans Mining Company for its mining operations and to the Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited which distributes electricity to consumers in Corner Brook and adjacent communities in the Bay of Islands sections, to the towns of Grand Falls, Windsor, Bishop's Falls, Botwood and Lewisporte, and to the International Airport at Gander and the Township of Gander nearby. The Company, in addition to its eight hydro plants, operates two steam generating plants at St. John's, having a total capacity of 30,000 kw.

The United Towns Electric Company Limited operates nine hydro plants and two diesel plants, the latter located on the Burin Peninsula. A subsidiary, the West Coast Power Company, operates diesel generators at St. George's and Port aux Basques, and a hydro plant at Lookout Brook. The Union Electric Light and Power Company operates plants at Clarenville, Port Union and Trinity.

Power plant construction recently completed or under way is outlined at p. 608.

**Prince Edward Island.**—The area of Prince Edward Island is only 2,184 sq. miles and, as 75 p.c. of its population lives in rural areas, electric power must be supplied to thickly populated rural districts interspersed with a considerable number of small municipalities. There is little opportunity for the development of hydro-electric power in the province since the rivers are short, drainage areas are small and the country is relatively flat. Therefore, power is generated mainly in thermal and diesel plants using imported fuels.

The Maritime Electric Company supplies 59,350,340 kwh. of the Island's power consumption of 67,282,200 kwh. with a system peak of 13,900 kw. from its Charlottetown plant. The plant consists of six steam turbines of 22,365 kw. total capacity. In 1958 the Company served 12,472 rural and urban customers over approximately 850 miles of Company-owned distribution line, with an additional 2,613 customers being served by 551 miles of distribution line owned by the provincial government and connected to the Company system. In addition, the Company supplies 6,899,240 kwh. of energy annually to the Town of Summerside Electric Light Department.

Two other power systems supply the remainder of the power consumed in the province. The Town of Summerside Electric Light Department operates a station in Summerside which is powered by nine diesel engines with a total capacity of 2,835 kw. and has an annual

\* Revised by the various provincial commissions or authorities concerned.