

electricity to 370 farms and 17 villages. In addition, in 1948, the Company constructed a 665-kva. hydro plant on the Astoria River in Jasper National Park for the Department of Mines and Resources.

The Northland Utilities Limited also serves 1,200 consumers at Dawson Creek, B.C., with natural gas and 310 at Fairview and Bluesky.

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" 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 to April 1953:—

<i>Year 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 (from August 1945).....	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
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
TOTALS.....	27,189	22,320	49,509	49,509

This growth has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in generating capacity from 8,285 kw. at Mar. 31, 1946, to 124,415 kw. at Mar. 31, 1953. The number of power districts rose in that period from 12 to 27 and there was also a large increase in the line mileage in operation. In 1952, there was considerable development of distribution systems to supply electrical services to rural areas, particularly in the North Okanagan district. Two new power districts, supplied from locally situated diesel generating systems, were opened in the Queen Charlotte Islands and at Fort St. James.

In 1946, the Commission established a promotional rate structure designed to "permit and encourage the maximum use of power" as required by the Act. This rate structure was extended as fast as increased plant capacity and distribution systems were installed to take care of the growth in load anticipated through its introduction. Within five years all acquired operations were enjoying this modern rate structure and, since 1951, all power districts have been charged in accordance with these promotional rates.

The Commission's main development on Vancouver Island—the John Hart plant—is being enlarged for the third time. This plant, now comprising four turbines of 28,000 h.p. each with an equivalent electrical rating of 20,000 kw., is being augmented by the addition of the final group of two units of the same size. When this additional installation is completed during the summer of 1953, the