

Electrification Enquiry Commission was appointed by the Provincial Government to study the feasibility of widespread farm electrification in the Province. It was concluded that, with the Manitoba Power Commission's network of transmission lines as a source of supply and with the economy in design of farm lines that had been worked out, it would be practicable to bring the benefits of hydro-electric power to over 90 p.c. of the farms in the Province, provided the farmers themselves were prepared to assist in certain organizational and operational matters. A test program undertaken in 1945 proved successful and, thereafter, the Commission conducted annual programs of farm electrification. By 1948, the Commission's annual goal of 5,000 farms was achieved and the program has proceeded at that rate ever since. Manitoba's farm electrification project on an area-coverage basis is now complete. The Manitoba Power Commission has connected electrical service to more than 39,000 farms, 75 p.c. of the Province's total. Over 90 p.c. of the citizens of the Province are now in areas where central electric station power is available to them. In all, the Commission now serves more than 95,000 customers and this figure will exceed 100,000 during 1954. The only farms remaining to be served are those in isolated pockets that may now be feasibly added to the Commission's system and farmers in previously-energized areas who have not yet availed themselves of the opportunity of taking service.

Saskatchewan.—Saskatchewan Power Corporation, established Feb. 1, 1949, and operating under the provisions of the Power Corporation Act 1950 (Statutes of Sask. 1950, c. 10), as amended, succeeded the Saskatchewan Power Commission which operated from Feb. 11, 1929, to Jan. 31, 1949. The main functions of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation are the generation, transmission, distribution, sale and supply of electric energy and steam. It is also authorized to produce or purchase, and to transmit, distribute, sell and supply natural or manufactured gas into which field the Saskatchewan Power Corporation stepped in 1952.

Particulars of the operations of the Saskatchewan Power Commission during the period 1929-48 and of the operations of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation during 1949-52 are given in earlier editions of the Year Book.

The Saskatchewan Power Corporation is experiencing extensive growth similar to that of its predecessor—Saskatchewan Power Commission. In 1953 the Corporation served 628 urban communities (with six customers and more) in retail sales and three urban communities (Saskatoon, Swift Current and Battleford) in bulk sales. Its activity is extended to the entire province with the exception of such cities as Regina and Weyburn which own and operate municipal plants and distribution systems, and Moose Jaw where the local plant and distribution system is owned and operated by National Light and Power Co. Limited. A certain number of small communities, the largest of them being the town of Kamsack, are not as yet served by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. Some of these utilities, mostly privately owned, were taken over by the Corporation in 1953.

At the end of 1953 the Corporation served 122,676 customers. Of this total 22,570 customers were located in communities which were supplied with power in bulk sales and 100,106 customers were Saskatchewan Power Corporation's retail customers. The latter group comprised 82,591 customers in the communities considered as urban and 17,515 customers were classified as rural, predominantly farms. During 1953 all customers absorbed 398,211,673 kwh. of which 359,028,165 kwh.