

Northland Utilities Limited serves 1,300 consumers with natural gas at Dawson Creek, B.C., 362 consumers at Fairview and Bluesky, and 569 at Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Spirit River and Rycroft.

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
1954.....	—	3,264	3,264	52,773

Highlight of recent expansion was the addition of the fifth and sixth generating units at the Commission's largest plant, the John Hart Development on Campbell River, Vancouver Island. The expansion, completed in the autumn of 1953 at a cost of about \$4,500,000, increased the capacity of the plant from 112,000 to 168,000 h.p. (i.e., 80,000 to 120,000 kw.). The John Hart Development has been almost continuously expanded since it was started in 1945. The first two units were placed in operation late in 1947, the third and fourth in the autumn of 1949.

The John Hart Development now serves, through Commission transmission and distribution systems, territory on Vancouver Island between Duncan and Campbell River, including the Comox Valley, Alberni, Lake Cowichan and Nanaimo-Duncan power districts. The B.C. Electric Railway Company Limited takes delivery of power at Nanaimo and transmits a large block for distribution in Victoria and environs, so that the John Hart Development serves the main areas of Vancouver Island. The facilities provided as a result of this development have led to the establishment of three major industries on Vancouver Island—sulphate pulp mills at Nanaimo and Port Alberni, and a newsprint mill near Campbell River.

Growth in the smaller communities of the Province served by the Commission in number of customers and in average consumption per customer has necessitated steady expansion of most of the 19 diesel generating stations.

Other hydro plants operated by the Commission are the Whatshan Development on Lower Arrow Lake, which was completed in the summer of 1951 with a capacity of 33,000 h.p. (22,500 kw.), and the Clowhom Falls Development with 4,000-h.p. capacity. The Whatshan plant serves much of the Arrow Lakes area, but its main market is the rich fruit and dairy district of the North Okanagan and the Kamloops area. The Clowhom Falls plant serves the Sechelt Peninsula, up-coast from Vancouver.