

Manitoba.—The Manitoba Power Commission was established in 1919 for the purpose of distributing electric energy, both wholesale and retail, throughout the Province, with the exception of the Metropolitan Winnipeg area. The utility currently operates under the Manitoba Power Commission Act (R.S.M. 1954, c. 203), as amended.

The Commission's supply of electric energy for distribution is purchased at various points, chiefly in or near the city of Winnipeg and arrangements between the Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Electric Company for the purchase of power are contained in the Seven Sisters Agreement of 1928. The Commission has gradually acquired practically all of the municipally owned and privately owned generating plants operating within its jurisdiction and has spread a network of transmission lines across the Province. All energy distributed is now generated by hydro power.

The Commission's program was started in the 1930's and, designed to bring hydro-electric power at uniform service rates to all rural centres of 20 population or over, is now virtually complete and currently serves 496 centres. In 1942 the Manitoba 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 proceeded at that rate. Manitoba's farm electrification project on an area-coverage basis is now complete. The Manitoba Power Commission has connected electrical service to about 42,000 farms, or 80 p.c. of the total farms of the Province. Over 90 p.c. of the population of Manitoba are in areas where central electric station power is now available to them and the Commission serves more than 101,000 customers. The only farms remaining to be served are those in isolated pockets that may feasibly be added to the Commission's system and farms in areas already served by electric power but whose operators have not yet availed themselves of the opportunity of taking service.

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

Particulars of the operations of the Saskatchewan Power Commission during the period 1929 to 1948 and of the operations of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation during 1949 to 1953 are given in earlier editions of the Year Book.

The Corporation is experiencing extensive growth. In 1953 it served 661 urban communities (with six or more customers) in retail sales and three urban communities (Saskatoon, Swift Current and Battleford) in bulk sales. Activities of the Corporation are 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 Company Limited. A number of small communities, the largest being the town of Kamsack, are not yet served by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. Some of these utilities, mostly privately owned, were taken over by the Corporation in 1954.

At the end of 1954 the Corporation served 134,587 customers, of whom 23,580 were located in communities which were supplied with power in bulk sales and 111,007 were Corporation retail customers. The latter comprised 87,142 customers in communities