

SURPLUS IS SHOWN BY HYDRO OFFICIALS ON 1926 OPERATIONS

Generating Capacity Grows and Financial Reserves Doubled

NEW GATINEAU CONTRACT

Substantial Progress Is Re- ported in Rural Elec- trification

A net surplus, after providing for all expenses and necessary fixed charges, of \$565,413.34, and an increase of about 100,000 horsepower in the generating capacity of the Commission's plants are features of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission's report for the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, 1926, which was tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

This—the nineteenth annual report of the Commission—also lays stress on the fact that during the past three years there has been a growth of more than 100 per cent. in the reserves of the co-operative municipal undertaking which the Commission administers. Reserves, which in 1923 aggregated slightly more than \$12,000,000, had reached, at the close of October last, the figure of \$24,751,411.22.

Total Investments.

According to the report, the total investment of the Hydro Commission in power undertakings and Hydro-Electric railways, at the close of business in 1926 was \$203,442,757.99. It is made up as follows:

Niagara System, \$155,769,665.97; Georgian Bay System, \$5,259,249.53; St. Lawrence System, \$1,062,444.88; Rideau System, \$1,161,658.24; Thunder Bay System, \$12,724,571.03; Ottawa System, \$46,843.15; engineering, power sites, St. Lawrence and Ottawa Systems, \$262,655.18; Central Ontario and Trent Systems, \$14,067,963.23; Nipissing System, \$1,036,000.84; office and service buildings, construction plant, inventories, etc., \$2,661,806.34; Hydro-Electric railways, \$9,389,899.60.

"Taken as a whole," the report states, "the financial results of the Commission's operations for the year are very satisfactory, particularly so as regards rural power districts. The revenue for the year from the customers of rural districts amounted to \$743,133.47, and the cost of power supplied, including operating expenses, fixed charges and reserves, was \$604,981.30, leaving a balance in the hands of the Commission amounting to \$138,202.17."

The total reserves of the Commission for sinking funds, renewals, contingencies, and insurance purposes are listed as amounting to \$24,751,411.22. They are distributed as follows: Niagara System, \$18,625,079.71; Georgian Bay System, \$1,163,189.74; St. Lawrence System, \$287,539.18; Rideau System, \$154,504.21; Thunder Bay System, \$315,590.45; Ottawa System, \$7,304.95; Central Ontario and Trent System, \$2,134,171.74; Nipissing, \$106,744.04; Bonnechere storage, \$7,217.21; Service buildings and equipment, \$433,473.05; Insurance—Workmen's Compensation and Staff Pension Insurance \$1,516,596.94.

Margin of Power.

Steady growth, according to the statement, has characterized the work of the Commission in the past year. The 100,000-horsepower increase in generating capacity, as already mentioned, exceeds somewhat the growth in load for the period, "and has given for the time being a reasonable margin between the capacity available, and the demand for power." This, it is emphasized, has resulted in an improved service and has enabled the various generating plants to be maintained "in a high state of efficiency."

What is termed a remarkable "continuity of service" was provided by the Commission during the year. This is indicated, it is pointed out, by the fact that power was never entirely off the Niagara System for a single minute during the year. The growth in load of the various systems is charted as follows:

Distribution of power to systems (20-minute peak horsepower):	Oct., '25.	Oct., '26.
Niagara system and export	683,646	800,000
Georgian Bay system....	18,261	17,109
St. Lawrence system....	5,350	6,790
Rideau system.....	2,535	3,076
Thunder Bay system....	44,086	40,977
Ottawa system.....	14,260	16,354
Central Ontario and Trent system	37,762	41,166
Nipissing system.....	2,500	2,560
Total	808,398	923,032

Gatineau Contract.

No large power developments are under construction by the Commission at the present time to serve the Niagara System; but, in order to take care of the immediate future demands for power, the Commission, in the early half of 1926, entered into an important agreement with the Gatineau Power Company whereby the Commission eventually will receive 260,000 of Gatineau River power. The report further makes mention that 80,000 horsepower of this block will be delivered in 1927 at the interprovincial boundary on the Ottawa River, and will be transmitted over a special 280,000-volt transmission line to Toronto.

Aerial surveys on this line have been carried out in the past year, and constructional work will be actively carried on during the present season. While, as generally known, this power will be 25-cycle power, "the requirements of Eastern Ontario are being given earnest consideration, and studies were made and are still in progress for providing additional large blocks of 60-cycle power for the eastern districts of the Province."

On the Thunder Bay System, the load previously established has been fairly well maintained during the year. At Cameron Falls generating station, on the Nipigon River, the fifth and sixth units have been put into operation, thus completing this development with an installed capacity of 75,000 horsepower.

Rural Power.

During the past two or three years very substantial progress has been made in Ontario in the field of rural electrification. There is now more than \$4,750,000 invested in the rural power district systems established by the Commission. About 2,300 miles of transmission lines have been constructed to date, of which more than 750 miles were erected during the past year, this mileage exceeding that constructed in any former year. There are now nearly 19,000 customers supplied in the rural power districts.

PRINCIPLE INVOLVED IN BEAVERTON BILL QUERIED BY RANEY

Property Vested in One Legal Organization to Go to Another, He Says

CARRIES SECOND READING

Before the Legislature yesterday gave second reading to George Shields's bill respecting the Continuing Presbyterians of Beaverton, Hon. W. E. Raney questioned the principle involved, claiming that, in his recollection, the House had no precedent on which to base the action it contemplated.

How, he asked, could the Government—and the Government, he said, had to stand behind all the legislation enacted in the House—approve of the principle of a bill which declared that property vested in one organization should be taken away and vested in another?

Mr. Raney further submitted that the Private Bills Committee, which had approved of the measure in the first place, was no court of justice.

"It is a court of equity and good conscience," remarked Fred McBrien (Conservative, Toronto Brockton).

"A court of equity and good conscience acts on evidence," declared Mr. Raney, who stressed the point that no evidence had been taken before the committee.

"There has never been a case like this," said Mr. Raney.

McBrien Tells of Case.

"Oh, yes, there has," said Mr. McBrien, who proceeded to relate that in the regime of Sir James Whitney a bill had been passed which had vested all the Hydro powers of Ontario in the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. A deputation had waited on the Chief Justice at Ottawa—then Sir Allen Aylesworth—to protest, and the answer given it was that its sole alternative lay in turning the Government out of office. "There's a precedent, if my honorable friend wants one," said Mr. McBrien.

Attorney-General Price, who was Chairman of the Public Bills Committee, could not see that the action of the committee was "an innovation," as suggested by Mr. Raney. He recalled to the House the fact that the Church Union bill itself had been the means of transferring a lot of property from one people to another. "This matter, to me, seems to be," he said, "merely a special one which Church Union has brought about. It has been brought to the Legislature and we have to deal with it."

With very little more discussion the bill carried second reading.