

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITY OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC DETAILED IN REPORT

Shows Million and Half Invested in Rural Power Works, Increase of 11 Per Cent. in Peak Load, No Increase in Generating Capacity

"MUNICIPAL END" TO COME LATER

That \$5,500,000 is invested in rural power works by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, and that in the various Hydro systems throughout the Province there was, during the last fiscal year, an increase of about 11 per cent. in the peak load, is stated in the annual report of the Commission tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

This, the twentieth annual statement, points out that it was the first year since 1918 that no increase was made in the generating capacity.

\$5,469,179 Expenditure.

The report shows that the total capital expenditure in rural power districts was \$5,469,179. Of this \$5,232,551 covers units in operation, and \$236,628 works in course of construction.

Grants of 50 per cent. of primary and secondary lines payable by the Province amounted to \$2,718,726, and the extent to which grants are authorized by Order-in-Council is \$3,333,288. Grants paid to the Commission under such authorization totalled \$2,735,013. Grants in the hands of the Commission on Oct. 31, 1927, applicable to further rural power districts construction authorized by Order-in-Council totalled \$141,851.

This report deals particularly with the "Provincial end" of the system. The work carried on in every system is described in detail, and charts and tables tell of the amount of power used in municipalities and rural power districts.

It is expected that within a few weeks a further report will give more financial details of the power matters of the Province, and will picture particularly the "municipal end" of the organization.

An official press summary of the copious report is as follows:

First Year Since 1918.

In the various systems no additional generators were placed in operation during the year. Natural growth of the load had reduced the margin between the generation capacity available and the demand. This is the first year since 1918 that no increase has been made in the generating capacity.

The increase in the peak load on all systems during this year was 71,500 horsepower, as against 56,000 horsepower last year. Each system showed an increase in the average load and the peak load increased in all except the Thunder Bay system. On the Niagara system, Central Ontario and the Nipissing systems the peak load increased in somewhat greater proportion than the average load. On the Niagara system this proportion of increase in the peak load was taken care of by the arrangements for the export of surplus power, the peak load exported being reduced 9,000 horsepower below 1926 figures, while the surplus kilowatt hours exported were increased.

Taken on the whole, the peak loads show an increase of about 11 per cent., which is close to the average growth as established during the past 10 years, but the total kilowatt hours taken have not increased in proportion.

1,073,680 Horsepower.

The total power generated and purchased for the year was 1,073,680 horsepower as compared with 1,072,387 in 1926.

On the Niagara system operating conditions have altered very little from those prevailing during the previous years. The demand for power on the system, exclusive of export power, increased about 11 per cent. over the previous year. This increase of 66,000 horsepower in load exceeds the additional generating capacity installed during the previous year, but no trouble has been experienced in carrying the load, although the margin available for maintenance or contingencies has been correspondingly reduced.

Never Completely Off.

It may be stated for the third year in succession that the service has been very satisfactory and that power has never been completely off the Niagara system for a single minute during the year. It is noted that because of the absence of any serious accidents or breakdowns in equipment that there are not many important items requiring special mention.

In the Georgian Bay system there has been an increase in the load over last year resulting from the increases in industrial loads and the operation of new industries.

There has been a marked increase in the demand for power in the Severn division and in this division an extensive program of line maintenance was carried out during the year. The peaks on the Muskoka division for the present year are lower than the peaks of the previous year, while the average loads are approximately the same as in 1926.

During the past fiscal year the load on the St. Lawrence system increased very rapidly, and this was covered by arrangements with the Cedar Rapids

Transmission Company to increase the power contract to the extent of 1,200 additional horsepower.

Radios in Thunder Bay.

In the Thunder Bay system two short-wave radio stations placed in service last season have functioned very satisfactorily throughout the year in keeping the head office in Toronto in close touch with the operation of the system.

The demands for power on the Central Ontario and Trent system show a substantial increase. These demands have been supplied unrestrictedly with the exception of minor load reductions in September, due to the regulation of stream flow.

Both peak and average loads in the Nipissing system have shown heavy increases over the previous fiscal year, the peak requiring approximately all of the available generating capacity.

All Available Used.

The first block of power under the contract with the Gatineau development will be taken over toward the end of the present year. The rapid and consistent increase in the power load on the Niagara system indicates that all available power will be used by the end of 1928.

Under the Thunder Bay system the most important development in the year has been that at Cameron Falls.

Owing to the conditions of the pulp and paper market the pulp mill at Nipigon was closed down indefinitely, and an extension of time for the beginning of operations was granted to another mill which had signed a contract for 22,000 h.p. at Port Arthur. Due to these circumstances the construction of the new development at Alexander Landing has been deferred. The total load sold on the system during the year has increased by 6,600 h.p. over the previous year. The load at Port Arthur for the same period has increased by approximately 2,000 h.p., while the demand at Fort William was approximately 1,000 h.p. greater than at the beginning of the year.

In the Central Ontario system existing manufacturing concerns have in some cases increased their load by more than 50 per cent., while numerous inquiries have been received from new industries wishing to locate on the system. The growth of the domestic load has been considerably above the average during the year 1927.

Preliminary arrangements for the receiving station at Toronto for power from the Gatineau River development have practically been completed, and engineering work covering the buildings, structures and equipment for the initial installation is proceeding. A site of approximately fifteen acres at Leaside has been purchased, and orders placed for the necessary equipment.

Foundations have been constructed for a fourth bank of transformers at the Toronto-Wiltshire transformer station.