

March 16

Need for New Power Reiterated by Hydro

Notwithstanding the recent purchase of large blocks of Quebec power, chiefly for the Niagara system, it has been the policy of Hydro to own and, when practicable, to develop additional economical sources of current in Ontario, the annual report of the Provincial Power Commission, as tabled in the Legislature yesterday, reveals.

"There are still many undeveloped power sites in Southern Ontario and also certain developments that by being modernized can be made to contribute economically to the power supplies of the smaller systems," the report stresses. "But power supplies sufficient to take care of normal growth in load of the Niagara system must come from large developments. In Southern Ontario the undeveloped hydraulic powers of the required magnitude are on international or inter-provincial rivers. Apart from the protracted negotiations, which would inevitably precede agreements permitting the start of such developments, the actual construction period would be measured in years."

New Plants.

The statement which covers the twelve-months operating period ending last October stresses the commencement of construction of a new 10,000 horsepower generating station on the Musquash River, to be finished in 1938, and the purchase for the Eastern Ontario system of three plants on the Otonabee River, property of the Canada Cement Company. During the year the Commission also obtained control over the Sills Island generating station at Frankford, and the Campbellford generating station, formerly owned by the Quinte and Trent Valley Power Company.

Primary load on all systems amounted to 1,468,220 horsepower, the report reveals. "This," it says, "is the highest aggregate primary load ever carried on the systems, and is an increase of 150,000 horsepower or 11.4 per cent as compared with the corresponding figure for the previous year. As in other recent years the percentage gains in load in the northern part of the Province were greater than in Southern Ontario."

New Power Lines.

During the year nearly 225 miles (in all) of 110,000-volt transmission lines and 117 miles of 44,000 and less voltage lines were built. This, the report states, was exclusive of the extension to primary lines in rural power districts. Ten new distributing stations were installed throughout the entire power system, and the capacity of nineteen others was increased.

The greatest expansion in rural electrical service on record was manifested, the report states. The total mileage of rural primary lines approved for construction was 2,300. Some 13,000 new customers were connected to the lines during the year. To construct these newly authorized lines and to provide

equipment to serve new customers on existing lines required a capital expenditure of about \$5,000,000, approximately half of which was provided by the Government as a grant-in-aid.

Further substantial reductions were made in the rates to rural consumers. On Dec. 1, 1936, the service charge to ordinary farm classes was reduced to a maximum of \$1 per month net, and in August, 1937, this reduction was extended to all hamlet classes, except to summer cottages using electric stoves or other large appliances requiring a three-wire service.

\$8,000,000 in Extensions.

Capital expenditure of about \$8,041,000 was made for extensions to generating stations, transmission lines and distributing networks, storage networks, etc. Total investment of the Commission in power undertakings and railways is \$305,172,410.22, exclusive of Government grants in respect of construction of rural lines (\$11,951,891.63) and the investment of the municipalities in distributing systems and other assets.

"The revenue of the Commission at interim rates from the municipal utilities operating under cost contracts, from customers in rural power districts, and from customers with whom—on behalf of the municipalities—the Commission has special contracts, eleven within the Niagara, Georgian Bay, Eastern Ontario and Thunder Bay systems, Manitoulin Island and Nipissing rural power districts, aggregate \$31,225,988.90," the report states. "The revenue of the Commission from customers served by the Northern Ontario power properties which are held and operated in trust for the Province is \$2,967,796.56, making a total of \$34,193,785.46."