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farms and in the households on farms. also hamlet residences, probably owing to the high cost of fuel, there has been taken this year power for manufacturing purposes, such as is found in rural districts. That is, brick and tile yards, gravel plants, stone crushing plants, quarries, milk condensers, and others have been applying for service. In the Norwich district this amounted to the doubling of the load this year, and other districts are looking into commission is serving and building to the application of power along the lines of that which is now being done in Oxford county.

In the Central Ontario system in Ontario county, on petitions from groups in different districts, there has been a rapid development, and the commission is arranging to build 16 miles of line to serve 27 farmers, 65 hamlet contracts, a mill, a creamery, a garage, a blacksmith shop and a bakery, also a street lighting system.

In the Northern system progress has been slower, probably owing to its being a stock feeding district more than a dairy section, but the commission is now arranging to build to 14 farms in one county, on a line, where the first movement for hydro in the district originated from a farmer's club. The results so far in getting service to farmers have been gratifying to the commission.

Service Supplied At Cost

Rural districts necessarily move slower than more congested municipalities. The policy of the commission is the same in the getting of power to farms and rural municipalities, as it is in the getting of power to cities, towns and villages, that is, "service at cost." If the petitioners in the district are willing to bear costs, the Hydro Act provides that service is to be given to them. The regular proceeding is for the group who want hydro power to petition the township council for an estimate. The township council forward this petition, or a copy of it, to the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, with a resolution, asking that such an estimate be prepared. As soon as this is prepared and approved by the commission it is forwarded to the township council, who within 30 days call a meeting of the petitioners. They are then ready to enter into a contract with the municipality for hydro power, and the municipality is then in a position to enter into an agreement with the commission for power for the petitioners. The commission then builds the lines to the farmer's gate and the township provides the transformers, meters and secondaries for service on the farm.

The counties in which progress has been the greatest are the following: South Oxford, Waterloo, Kent, Ontario, Peel, Grey, Welland, Lincoln, Wentworth, Norfolk, Middlesex and Elgin. Over \$35,000,000 Invested. Some idea of the enormous size of this undertaking in public ownership can be gained by these figures. The total capital investment of the commission itself up to October 31, 1916, was \$14,619,000. The total assets of the 128 municipalities operating, including their land and building, as well as equipment, was \$21,359,000. The percentage of net debt on the enterprise compared to the total assets was only 78.4 per cent. at the end of last year.

Such is the record of this "experiment" in public ownership. It would be well for Canada if more of such experiments could be carried out in such a successful manner. There is not such opportunity for the development of water power in Western Canada, perhaps, as has been possible in Ontario; but there are some, and whether it be in electric power or any one of many enterprises that could be operated by the people, for the people, the hydro system of Ontario, with its careful and aggressive management, offers a lesson and great inspiration to all.

Hansen walked up to the postmaster of a little Western town and said: "Est yu gat no mail fur me?" "What's your name?" asked the postmaster.

"By ying, my name is on the letter. If you cannot read it, vat fur yu lie in ther?" Hansen replied.

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