

poses, includes Vancouver City, Point Grey, South Vancouver, Burnaby, Port Moody, Coquitlam, Ladner and Delta. New Westminster obtains its power from the B. C. Electric at its own local sub-station and itself undertakes the sale and distribution of it. North Vancouver and the Fraser Valley up to Chilliwack are treated separately. The gross earnings from North Vancouver total \$48,287, made up from incandescent and street lighting \$21,980, and commercial power \$25,584. It will thus be seen that about fourteen-fifteenths of the gross revenue from the distribution of power and light on the mainland are derived from Vancouver and district.

In supplying Vancouver and district 79,848,302 k.w.h. were used for all purposes, including street railway. Of these 52,183,284 k.w.h. were employed for light and power, including street lighting (see Exhibit 105).

Naturally the questions of special interest for the citizens of Vancouver and district are primarily the cost of the plant, the cost and conditions of operation, the character of the service rendered, and, above all, the rates at which electric power is furnished for the various classes of service into which it is divided. In bringing out the facts bearing on these points, especially in the Vancouver district, two methods were jointly and severally followed—the method of direct inquiry as to costs and rates in Vancouver and district, and the method of comparison with other systems. As usual, the Company furnished very full statistics as to the details of the plant, conditions of operation, costs and returns. The City of Vancouver employed Mr. J. D. Ross, an electrical engineer and superintendent of the electric light and power plant of Seattle. Under the direction of Mr. McCrossan, Vancouver City Solicitor, Mr. Ross gave much valuable information as to the Seattle system, which is naturally

most commonly compared with that of Vancouver, and was the occasion of bringing out many important details from the representatives of the B. C. Electric Company in reply to his observations and comments. Much other information of a comparative nature was furnished by other parties.

#### COMPARE RATES WITH AVERAGE, NOT LOWEST CITIES

As Vancouver City is naturally interested in obtaining electric power and light at the lowest possible rates, the representatives of the City made much of the fact that Winnipeg is supplied, in the matter of domestic light and power, at 3½ cents per k.w.h. and Seattle at 5½ cents, these being practically the lowest rates in Canada and the United States respectively. In taking the general experience of the continent, however, it is found that while Seattle and Los Angeles enjoy the lowest city rates in the United States for domestic lighting, the general experience of cities throughout the United States is that rates for domestic light and power are very much higher. In a table of comparative lighting rates furnishing particulars for 105 cities of the United States having a population of 50,000 and over, it is found that only the two cities of Seattle and Los Angeles have a rate as low as 5½ cents per k.w.h. after discount, the others running from that up to 12 cents (see Exhibit 141). In this list, which does not include Canadian cities, if we take the discounted rate of Vancouver at 8.8 per k.w.h., it will be found to come fifty-second on the list, or practically midway between the highest and lowest American cities. Thus in comparison with the general experience of American cities Vancouver does not fare badly, even under present conditions. In the comparisons which are made with Seattle, therefore, it must be borne in mind that Vancouver is being compared not with the average