

eliminated as the chief source of the annual losses of the Company, then as regards Vancouver district the remainder of the losses, due to the prevailing war conditions and the diminished population, might be fairly well met until more prosperous times recur by the fixing of a city population area within which present rates and transfers should continue, while beyond that area a readjustment with reference to rates, frequency of service, etc., could probably be effected in conference between representatives of the adjoining municipalities and the management of the Company.

(7) As regards Victoria, apart from the elimination of jitney competition in the districts served by the street cars, and the revision of the Company's charter in order to bring it into harmony with the more modern charters of the mainland, practically no change in existing fares, transfer privileges, etc., would be needed.

(8) In both districts special economies, such as the one-man cars on specified routes, to be agreed upon by the City and the Company, should be carefully considered and if possible approved.

VII. LIGHT AND POWER

PLANT CONSTRUCTION AND GROWTH OF DEMAND REVIEWED

Special conditions of unprecedented growth of Vancouver increased cost of construction. Plans for dam changed by government. Economic reaction left plants idle while cost goes on. Recommends wider use of electric current as means of bringing down price. Cost of electrical development necessarily higher at Vancouver than at Winnipeg.

THERE remains to be considered the operation of the Company as regards its electric light and power developments and their relations to the needs and requirements of the public, as also the more limited gas service in portions of Vancouver and Victoria cities.

The electric light and power interests of the Company are very large and their importance to the public is very great, while their future possibilities can scarcely be estimated. The information obtained by the Commission with reference to the whole subject of light and power was very extensive and detailed, and as in the case of the transportation matters, furnishes a very complete record of information for future reference.

Light and power are furnished to the City of Vancouver and the other districts on the mainland by the B. C. Electric Railway Company, through the Vancouver Power Company, one of its subsidiaries. The total capital

invested in this plant amounts to \$16,625,510. This is made up as follows (see Exhibit 5A):

Hydro-electric, Lake Buntzen - Coquitlam works	\$8,349,668
Steam plant, Vancouver	1,194,386
Sub-station and transmission lines	3,715,774
Light and power distribution	3,371,682

The Company also buys power from the Western Canada Power Company under a contract entered into in 1913 and running for twenty years. This contract was modified in 1917. The contract and its modifications are given in Exhibits 19 and 19A.

From Exhibit 10 we find that the gross earnings from the light and power in Vancouver district amounted in 1916 to \$1,475,723, made up from incandescent and street lighting \$1,172,492, and commercial power \$303,230. Vancouver district, for power and light pur-