

### Ontario Hydro becomes corporation

By royal proclamation issued March 4, the 68-year-old Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario ceased to exist and its successor, the newly-created Ontario Hydro corporation came into being. The new board of directors, named by the provincial government, met in Toronto for the first time.

Hydro chairman George Gathercole announced that Robert B. Taylor of Hamilton was named vice-chairman and Douglas J. Gordon, Toronto, president of the corporation. Mr. Taylor assumes full-time duties July 1. Mr. Gordon joined Ontario Hydro in 1945 and has been general manager since June 1, 1970. W.E. Raney, Q.C. Toronto, is secretary of the corporation.

#### World pioneer

When the Commission was founded by an act of the legislature in 1906 it was Canada's first publicly-owned provincial electric utility. Born when electrical generation and transmission technologies were in their infancy, Hydro became one of the world pioneers in large-scale hydro-electric development, standardization of equipment and appliances, utility management and rural electrification.

With an initial capitalization of \$2.5 million the Commission by 1910 had built its first transmission line and begun to deliver power to eight municipalities which, by that date, had voted to join the public-ownership system. In Hydro's first year of active operation (1910), demand was only 4,000 kilowatts.

By the end of 1973, Hydro's mandate covered 250,000 square miles and 77 generating stations produced power for 688,000 retail customers (mostly rural) served directly, and 353 municipal utilities who in turn served 1,850,000 customers. Demand reached an all-time peak of 13.6 million kilowatts last December.

#### Thermal plants

Representing a departure from Hydro's long-standing pattern of hydro-electric development, the first two thermal-electric stations, the Hearn plant in Toronto and the J. Clark Keith plant in Windsor, began operations in 1951.

The emphasis on thermal plants grew



Ontario Hydro's generating station at Pickering.

steadily. Nuclear power was a new factor. By the end of 1973 fossil-fuelled generation, coal and natural gas, represented 42.3 per cent of Hydro's resources. Nuclear generation reached 13.1 per cent. Thermal plants, both fossil and nuclear, are expected to represent more than 80 per cent of generation capacity by 1980.

Studies in nuclear generation began

as long ago as 1951 in association with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. These culminated by 1971 when Hydro's third nuclear station, Pickering, produced its first power. Hydro was now not only launched well into the nuclear age but became an international leader with Pickering's record as the largest and most successful such station in the world.

### Civil aviation security

The purpose of new civil aviation security regulations announced recently by Transport Minister Jean Marchand is to provide the Government with the authority to regulate security measures at airports for the search of persons and property, and the protection of passengers, crews and aircraft. They will enhance the security measures now in effect at Canadian airports and carried out with the co-operation of the commercial airlines.

X-ray inspection systems for carry-on baggage and doorway-style weapon detectors will be installed at major Canadian airports during the next few months. The new regulations stipulate that major Canadian air carriers establish, maintain and carry out systems of surveillance and searching of persons, baggage and cargo by mechanical or electronic devices. The air carriers shall be required to submit, within 60 days, an account to the Minister of Transport of the security measures established and carried out.

### Natural gas supply inquiry

National Energy Board Chairman Marshall A. Crowe announced this month that a public hearing would be held on the supply and deliverability of Canadian natural gas with respect to foreseeable domestic requirements and potential exports.

The hearing, to open in Calgary and continue in other cities in Canada, will commence on a date to be set later.

The National Energy Board is seeking to make an appraisal of the present and future natural gas supply-and-demand situation in the light of changing circumstances in Canada and traditional export markets. A close look will be taken at reasonably foreseeable requirements for use in Canada and for exports under existing licences.

The hearing is also being held to examine the Board's method of calculating the surplus of natural gas remaining after allowance has been made for future domestic requirements.

Also to be included in the submis-