

INTRODUCTORY

CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS IN CANADA.

The increasing use and application of electrical energy is one of the outstanding phases of modern industry. In this connection the great water-power resources of the Dominion, the ready adaptability of hydro-power to the production of electrical energy, and the increasing extent and scope of economic electrical transmission, form an industrial asset which probably more than any other will ensure a full measure of future prosperity. A thorough investigation of the present status of the central electrical station industry forms therefore one of the essential preliminaries to systematic and intelligently directed development of our water resources.

Hitherto no attempt has been made to study and systematically analyse the central station industry in Canada, although its importance to industrial and commercial activities can scarcely be overstated. Electrical energy provides the ideal source of power for practically all classes of manufacturing, for the operation of street railways, for the operation of mines, for municipal and domestic lighting and for innumerable other activities. In brief, modern industrial, commercial and domestic life is very largely dependent upon an ample supply of electrical energy.

A census of the central electrical station industry of Canada has just been completed under a co-operative arrangement between the Department of the Interior, represented by the Dominion Water Power Branch, and the Department of Trade and Commerce, represented by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The report has been prepared in two sections: the first comprising the statistics of the central station industry of the Dominion, and the second forming a Directory of the central electric stations. A detailed analysis of the census statistics is being published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, from whom copies may be received upon application. The publication herewith comprises the Directory with a very brief introductory statement of the outstanding features of the statistics. The statistics are complete to January 1, 1918, while the Directory covers the conditions maintaining on or about January 1, 1919.

The purpose of the present report is four-fold: first, a stock-taking of the present central station facilities with the provision for expansion; second, an analysis of the statistical data collected for the purpose of noting the characteristics and trend of the industry; third, the preparation of a complete Directory of the central station industry covering concisely and systematically the principal features of the commercial and publicly-owned stations and systems in operation throughout the Dominion; and, fourth, the making available to those interested the locations where blocks of electrical energy are for sale, the prices at which this power is obtainable, and the transportation facilities available in the vicinity.

In view of the enormous demands on power in all parts of the country, a special effort has been made to secure information respecting blocks of power available for sale. The results secured in this direction were most satisfactory and are incorporated in the Directory. This information will be kept as up to date as possible in the offices of the Dominion Water Power Branch.

The central station data contained in this introductory statement cover only those electrical stations which are engaged in the sale of electrical energy for light, power, heat; for industrial use in manufacturing, mining and other enterprises; for all public or private uses, or in bulk to other distributing companies or to municipalities. The census definition of the term "central electric station" is a station which is engaged in the sale of electrical power. Central stations can be classed under two