



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

ELECTRICITY FOR FARMERS

No. 7 in a series
of pamphlets on
Alberta Government
Services.

Government of the
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

The Alberta Government has done much to bring electric power to the farmers of Alberta.

Rural Electrification Associations have been organized under the Co-operative Associations Act administered by the Department of Industries and Labour.

Amendments to the Co-operative Marketing Associations Guarantee Act were made so that borrowings of rural electrification associations could be guaranteed by the Provincial Treasurer. This Act was amended recently so that \$3,000,000 of liability could be assumed by the Provincial Treasurer in aiding rural electrification associations.

13,740 Farmers

Under this co-operative plan of rural electrification, 13,740 farms in Alberta had power by the end of 1951, and more than 1,000 non-farm consumers were being supplied over rural lines. Approximately 18,000 farmers are using power provided by their associations and the co-operation of the Provincial Government and the power companies.

Since the first association was chartered in April 1947 there have been 203 rural electrification associations organized and granted charters by the Government.

By December 31, 1951, the Alberta Government had guaranteed the borrowing of 125 rural electrification associations for a total of \$3,554,111 to build lines estimated to cost \$8,879,861. This borrowing guaranteed by the Provincial Treasurer is at an interest rate of not more than 3½ percent per annum and for a period of not more than 10 years.

Alberta farmers, by the end of 1951 had paid back enough of their borrowings to reduce the amount of guarantees outstanding to \$2,102,169.

The Power Companies and the Provincial Government arranged to build the farm distribution systems at cost and to operate the lines at cost. Under this arrangement the lines are built on an estimated cost basis and a refund is made by the power company when the final cost figures warrant a refund.*

*Construction costs are checked by the Alberta Power Commission and by the Provincial Auditor.

At April 30, 1952, final cost statements had been supplied to 64 associations with 4,094 members. These 64 associations got refunds amounting to \$512,271 on their systems, which cost \$3,062,794, or an average cost of \$748 per farm. The average amount of the refund to each farmer was \$125.

Line Power Cheaper

Your Government and Alberta farmers realize that high line power is a great deal better and cheaper in the long run than power produced by individual light plants, and that farms supplied with power sell more readily at better prices, than farms in areas where power is unavailable.

The Provincial Government is eager to help Alberta farmers provide themselves with power. The only limiting factors at the present time are the availability of men and materials with which to build the lines.

Your Government has made it possible for thousands of farmers to have power on farms.

The cost of the electric power used by the farmer is under the control of the Board of Public Utility Commissioners.

TABLE SHOWING GROWTH OF RURAL ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATIONS

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	First 4 months, 1952
7	40	81	117	180	203

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL FARMS SERVED WITH ELECTRIC POWER

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
3760	6100	10,528	13,740	18,000 (estimated)