

The first big development took place in 1926, when a new 15,000 k.w. turbo-alternator was installed, and at the end of 1927 the scheme was prepared for the alterations to the works and the installation of further plant to meet the growing demand for current.

In February, 1928, the Town Council accepted the tender of the Swiss firm of engineers, Messrs Escher Wyss and Co., for the supply of a new 20,000 k.w. turbin set at a cost of £35,151.

It was during that year that Stockport was selected by the Electricity Commissioners as one of the centres of supply under the "grid scheme" for North West England and North Wales—an important move—and future extensions to the station can only be made with the consent and approval of the Commissioners.

From the first the work of development was beset with difficulties. The site was admittedly not of the best, and as the work went on, more and more difficulties were encountered. The delivery of the new plant was delayed in consequence and the critics became very busy. The work went on quietly, however, and in the meantime—on September 30, 1929—the current for the grid supply was turned on at the Stockport Station, Stockport being the first to furnish a supply.

The civil engineering work entailed in the extensions included the building of a culvert, 9ft. by 7ft., at a depth of 30 feet under the boiler house, an undertaking involving not a little risk to the workmen, and it is a matter for congratulation that the whole of the extensions were carried out without a minute's stoppage in the supply.

The new buildings include an extension of the turbo house, switch house, reactance chamber and control room, transformer house, mechanics' shop, battery house, and boiler house alterations.

The extensions were opened on Thursday, October 1, 1931, and the new turbo set was switched on by the Chairman of the Electricity Committee. Councillor J. Morton, whose work has been untiring. On the same day an exhibition of electrical appliances was opened by the Mayoress.

The total cost of the buildings, plant, etc., comprising the extensions, was £260,000, and it is anticipated that to secure full operative value from the new plant, a further expenditure of £150,000 will be necessary.

Statistics show that the production of the works has been more than double since 1922, when nearly 22 million units were sold, and the figure for 1931 was over 50½ millions, while the number of consumers has risen from 2807 in 1922 to 10,747 in 1931. With the increase in production there has been a corresponding decrease in the cost and from 1.26 pence per unit in 1922, the cost in 1931 was .54 pence.

On the personal side there have been three changes in Chairman and three changes in Engineers. Alderman G. Ball, who had been Chairman since the Committee was formed in 1905, retired in October 1924, when Councillor James Harrison was elected Chairman and Councillor J. Morton, Vice-Chairman, and on Councillor Harrison's retirement from the Council in 1926, Councillor Morton was made Chairman.