

steel manufacturers have been in trouble. The war brought an unusual demand for steel and iron and capacities of the nation's plants were expanded without regard for the future. When Europe and America returned to the markets of the Far East Japan proved ill-able to compete. Any plant which could make steel, no matter how inefficiently, had seemed all right in boom days. After the war it proved less satisfactory. The Government, realizing that one of its pet industries was in difficulties,

tried time and again to set it on its feet. Each new ministry had a new panacea. None worked. The most recent was that placed in effect by the Diet of 1926, which voted subsidies ranging from ¥3-¥6 a ton, with a special leaning toward steel turned out by the "hot process." Makers of steel and iron were exempted from business and income taxes and tariffs on such machinery as they needed.

Electric Industry of Japan

Heavy Investment Made Not Only by Japanese But Foreigners

Electric enterprises in Japan were commenced for the first time in July, 1886 when the Tokyo Electric Light Company (established in 1883 and capitalized at ¥200,000) constructed a 25-kw. steam power plant and supplied electric lights within a limited area of the city of Tokyo.

The electric light supply enterprise was soon afterwards started at various other cities of this country. The Kobe Electric Light Company was established in 1888, followed by the promotion in 1889 of the Osaka, Kyoto, and Nagoya Electric Light Companies. In 1892, there were 11 electric light companies, with an authorized capital reached ¥2,470,000.

At the time of the Sino-Japanese War, however, there were only five companies which planned the construction of hydro-electric power plants. Included among these companies were the Maebashi Electric Light, the Kiryu Electric Light, the Toyohashi Electric Light, the Fukushima Electric Light, and the Sendai Electric Light Companies.

Furthermore, these hydro-electric power plants were located at points not very far from the urban districts where the power was actually consumed. It was after the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5) that hydro-electric enterprises became popular in this country.

During 1906-7, many hydro-electric power companies were promoted in rapid succession, so much so that their number exceeded that of steam power companies in 1908. Prior to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War, the number of steam power companies was decidedly larger than that of the hydro-electric power companies.

Included among these newly-established companies are the Ujigawa Electric, the Hakodate Hydro-Electric, the Hakone Hydro-Electric Power, and the Nagoya Electric Power Companies which were established in 1906, and the Fuji Hydro-Electric, the Jomo Hydro-Electric, the Niigata Hydro-Electric, and the Tokushima Hydro-Electric Power Companies which were founded in 1907.

Investments in the electric light and power supply enterprises as well as in the joint enterprises of operating electric railways and at the same time supplying electric lights and power have increased enormously in recent years in due proportion to the development of such undertakings.

The following tables give details of the investments: (All in ¥1,000).

(1) Electric light and power supplying enterprise:

	Authorized capital	Paid-up capital	Percentage of Profit profit (Unit per cent)
1914	276,912	199,861	17,997 9
1916	296,622	224,556	16,284 10
1921	86,634	546,295	67,967 12
1925	1,024,401	767,017	87,535 11

(2) Electric light and power supply, and electric railway operation enterprises:

	Authorized capital	Paid-up capital	Percentage of Profit profit (Unit per cent)
1914	268,348	134,893	11,093 5
1916	302,686	264,390	19,293 7
1921	837,033	615,686	77,663 13
1925	1,572,261	1,299,439	151,433 11

(3) Debentures, financial accommodations secured, and reserves of the electric light and power supply companies.

	Debentures & Loans	Reserves
1914	57,951	9,416
1916	13,641	14,085
1921	181,634	35,292
1925	504,367	45,084

(4) Debentures, financial accommodations secured, and reserves, of the electric light and power supply and the electric railway companies.

	Debentures & Loans	Reserves
1914	3,768	4,639
1916	50,889	6,945
1921	81,111	31,672
1925	423,720	65,847

(5) All the figures, as is evident in the foregoing tables, show remarkable increases.

As regards the business condition of these companies in recent years, the following table gives the paid up capital, profits, and dividends of several influential electric companies which specialize in the supply of light and power: (All in ¥1,000.)

Tokyo Electric Light Company			
May, 1926	345,535	18,633	11
Nov., 1926	345,991	18,824	9
May, 1927	345,724	18,660	9
Ujigawa Electric Company			
Sept., 1926	52,274	3,545	10
Mar., 1927	57,274	3,689	10
Sept., 1927	59,775	3,007	10
Toshin Electric Company			
Sept., 1926	14,500	1,064	12
Mar., 1927	16,187	1,291	12
Sept., 1927	16,187	1,203	12
Yahagi Electric Power Company			
Sept., 1926	7,508	720	13
Mar., 1927	8,872	763	13
Sept., 1927	8,875	904	13
Daido Electric Power Company			
May, 1926	112,963	6,929	10
Nov., 1926	112,963	7,215	10
May, 1927	112,963	6,718	10
Nihon Electric Power Company			
Sept., 1926	62,500	3,317	9
Mar., 1927	62,500	3,400	9
Sept., 1927	75,000	3,607	9
Foreign Loans			

The electric companies in Japan constantly find themselves in need of extending their undertaking, and this