

(United States currency) per kilowatt-hour in west Java in the vicinity of Batavia and Bandoeng. It is claimed that this rate is excessive and prevents many people from making use of electric current. For this reason the public-utility companies are making serious efforts to induce the natives to install electricity for lighting purposes by granting them special rates. It is now possible for natives in some areas to have one 10-watt lamp in their homes on a flat rate of \$0.25 per month or two lamps for \$0.45 per month.

The rate for current for industrial and heating purposes is \$0.08, and that rate prevails throughout the territory, although special agreements can be entered into with the utility companies when consumers are prepared to guarantee a minimum consumption per month. In addition, the following rates are charged on energy consumed between 10 p. m. and 6 a. m. of the next day:

- At least 100 kilowatt-hours per month, \$0.07 per kilowatt-hour.
- At least 250 kilowatt-hours per month, \$0.048 per kilowatt-hour.
- At least 500 kilowatt-hours per month, \$0.040 per kilowatt-hour.
- At least 750 kilowatt-hours per month, \$0.036 per kilowatt-hour.

In some cases the power factor clause is included in rates charged for power supply, but generally a fixed rate is charged per kilowatt or kilovolt-ampere. A cost-of-fuel clause is naturally not included, when the current is supplied from one of the hydroelectric plants, but when the supply is taken from a steam or oil plant, this clause is usually inserted.

Most of the current is sold on a flat rate, one of the largest public-utility companies reporting that at the end of 1929 only 2 per cent of its total output was on a metered supply as compared with 79 per cent on a flat rate. Meters are used extensively in Batavia by the N. I. G. M.; however, in other towns where electric supply is available, automatic current limiters are used.

Power costs for industrial purposes will have to be reduced considerably before the large private industries in the Netherland East Indies will avail themselves of public-utility power. It is reported that the Government sells the power to the utility companies at approximately one-fifth of the cost that consumers are charged.

In addition to the actual tariff charges, many of the companies make a charge for connection, this charge taking the form either of a monthly fee, amounting to about 0.50 florin, or a stipulated sum paid once, when the connection is made.

PUBLIC-UTILITY COMPANIES

At the end of 1923 a public supply of electrical energy for lighting and industrial purposes was available in only 23 townships of the Netherland East Indies. During the next four years considerable development in the growth and expansion of the public-utility companies took place, and at the end of 1928 the number of townships where light and power were available had increased to 98. Approximately 3,000,000 people were living in the areas supplied by these companies. The majority of these townships were located in Java, where 68 were supplied. In Sumatra there were 16 towns where public-utility current was supplied, in Borneo 7 towns, in the Celebes 2 towns, and in the islands of the Moluccas, Timor, Bali, and Lombok there were 5 towns.