

MOTOR VEHICLES.

The earliest motor vehicles were propelled by steam, the history of the gasoline motor car commencing with the construction of a successful gasoline engine by Daimler in 1884. Until 1900 France remained the headquarters of the industry, possessing in the latter year more than half of the 10,000 cars in operation in Europe, while in the United States the number of cars was only about 700. Shortly afterwards the invention of the Ford car resulted in a keen competition to bring motor cars within the reach of the average man, profits being secured from large production rather than high prices. Detroit became the centre of the automobile industry of the United States and the Canadian side of the Detroit river became the headquarters of the Canadian industry. As a consequence the population of such border towns as Windsor, Walkerville, and Sandwich has greatly increased in the past decade, while Ford City, which had no existence in 1911, had 5,870 inhabitants in 1921.

Like many other inventions, the motor car commenced as a toy, then as the luxury of the rich, while now it ranks as a comfort of those in moderate circumstances and may even become a necessity of life to the masses. Of late years it has been increasingly used for economic purposes and to-day the great majority of cars effect substantial economies in time or in money for their owners, partly or wholly offsetting their cost of upkeep. In the past few years, the motor truck—the freight automobile—has assumed considerable economic importance, and this year it is separately classified in Table 27 of this section.

The increase of the use of motor vehicles in Canada has been very rapid. In 1904 the number of motor vehicles registered in Ontario was only 535. In 1907, 2,130 motor vehicles were registered in six Provinces, and in 1908, 3,033 in eight provinces, the motor car being at that time prohibited in Prince Edward Island. From these small beginnings Table 26 shows an increase to 465,378 motor vehicles in 1921, an increase over 1920 of 58,314, or more than the total number of motor vehicles registered in 1913. In Table 27 are given the numbers registered by provinces in 1921, classified as passenger cars, commercial cars or trucks, and motor cycles.

According to statistics collected for 1920 by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Canada in that year ranked next to the United States and Great Britain among the countries of the world in the number of its motor vehicles. In 1921 it possessed a motor vehicle for every 19 of its population.

In a recent government report the statement is made that "the automotive transport industry is just beginning to be a factor in the transportation of passengers and freight in this country. Railways have found that the handling of less than car-load lots of freight is often unprofitable business; it follows that commercial trucks are being used in greater numbers to carry lighter shipments of property between some of the larger centres served by adequately surfaced