

Iron ore, which was imported largely from Newfoundland and the State of Minnesota, was ultimately treated in 1923 in 26 active furnaces and rolling mills, with a capital of \$82,880,333 and a gross production valued at \$66,070,771. There were, in the last year for which complete returns are available, no fewer than 1,000 establishments handling iron and steel products, aside from the numerous custom and repair shops engaged in re-conditioning iron and steel goods. The plants represented a capital of \$552,272,800 and had a gross output valued at \$465,959,547. A great deal of this output is represented by agricultural implements for which there is a large domestic demand, by factory equipment and commercial and passenger motor vehicles. The output of automobiles has increased rapidly in recent years, the total production in 1922 being valued at \$81,956,429 and that of 1923 at \$96,614,176.

**Non-Ferrous Metals.**—During 1923 there were 333 plants in Canada manufacturing products from metals other than iron and steel. The aluminium, brass and copper products, electric apparatus and miscellaneous non-ferrous metal goods industries all showed increases over the previous year's production, but slightly offset by the decrease in the lead, tin and zinc products industry. Employment showed an increase from 18,222 in 1922 to 21,409 in 1923.

The aluminium industry in America dates from 1890, when the first successful process was worked out for the economical extraction of the metal from its ores. The lightness and ductility of the metal, and the fact that it is not readily attacked by organic acids, air or water, together with its capacity for transmitting heat readily, soon brought it into favour as a material for kitchen utensils, and in this connection it has become well known. Large quantities of aluminium wire are now used for electric transmission lines and quantities are used in the manufacture of such apparatus as cream separator parts and other light machinery. Alloyed with magnesium, it possesses great tensile strength and finds extensive use. Aluminium bronzes, too, are widely used, and during the war great quantities were utilized in the manufacture of aeroplane engines and parts.

A total of 100 plants was engaged during 1923 in manufacturing generators, motors, batteries, telephone and telegraph equipment, copper wires and cables, electric lamps, meters, vacuum cleaners and electrical fixtures of all kinds, of a total value of \$51,360,400. The development of cheap electrical power has done much to popularize the use of electrical equipment, and the future demand for such apparatus will probably only be limited by the development of adequate power.

Another industry of some importance consisted of 81 firms engaged principally in the rolling, casting and manufacturing of brass and copper, the principal products being castings and machinery fittings, brass steam fittings, plates and sheets, rods and wire cloth. The selling value of the products was \$16,794,000, while the materials were worth \$7,549,000.

**Non-Metallic Minerals.**—The gradual recovery in business conditions since 1921 is demonstrated by developments in the non-metallic mineral group. The recent expansion is accentuated by the growth of the petroleum-refining industry, which in 1923 produced almost 40 p.c. of the gross value of the entire production of the group. The 14 plants were located with a view to the economy of distribution, based on the greatest accessibility to the source of supply and the proximity of the markets. The refineries on the eastern and western coasts obtain their crude petroleum from South America, Mexico and the United States by tank steamers, bringing transportation costs to a minimum. Those situated in the central part of the Dominion are necessarily supplied by rail or pipeline. The more general