

a total value of \$244,520,000 (preliminary estimate); gold production, in particular, attained a new high level. While the production of the fisheries was smaller than in 1926, the available indexes of forestry production indicate a marked increase; to take one outstanding example, the output of newsprint in 1927 was 2,086,949 tons as compared with 1,884,705 tons in 1926. Again, the development of hydro-electric power in Canada proceeds apace; the output of central electric stations in December, 1927, was 1,177 millions of kilowatt hours, as compared with 1,036 millions and 915 millions in the same months of 1926 and 1925 respectively. Manufacturers, too, employed a substantially larger number of persons in 1927 than in 1926, when the gross value of the commodities turned out by the manufacturers reporting to the Census of Industries was approximately \$3,248,000,000, in itself an increase of \$300,000,000 over 1925. Finally, construction contracts awarded in 1927 aggregated \$418,951,000, a higher figure than in any year since 1912, when steam railway construction was at its height.

While the productive industries were thus extremely active during 1927, the financial institutions of the country also showed rapid progress. The total of the savings deposits of the chartered banks on the end of the year was \$1,444,528,540, an increase of \$71,765,055 over the same date of 1926 and the highest total on record. The increase of life insurance also testified to the growing well-being of the Dominion, the grand total of life insurance in force with Dominion companies reaching \$5,044,883,000, or about \$530 per head of population, at the end of 1927, as compared with \$4,610,196,000 at the end of 1926.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about all these increases is that they were achieved in spite of a declining level of prices. The average index number of wholesale prices, which was 160.3 p.c. of the 1913 level in 1925, declined to 156.2 in 1926 and 151.6 in 1927. Yet the average index number of 79 stocks rose from 107.0 at the end of 1926 to 161.6 at the end of 1927—an increase of over 50 p.c.

The volume of business transacted showed remarkable advances, bank debits in clearing house centres having risen from \$30,358 millions in 1926 to \$36,093 millions in 1927. While this remarkable increase was partly attributable to speculation, the substantial increase in employment in wholesale and retail trade testifies to an increasing volume of trade. The index number of employment in wholesale and retail trade was 122.2 on Dec. 1, 1927, as against 109.8 and 103.9 on the same dates of 1926 and 1925 respectively.

Canada Elected to the Council of the League of Nations.—At the meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations in September, 1927, Canada was elected to a non-permanent seat on the Council of the League. The Council meets at least four times a year; the five permanent members are Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Japan, while the other eight non-permanent members are Poland, Rumania, Chile, Netherlands, Colombia, China, Finland and Cuba.

Institution of Direct Communication with the British Government.—On July 1, 1927, in pursuance of the policy agreed upon at the Imperial Conference of 1926, the Governor-General ceased to be the medium of communication between the Canadian and the British Governments, and direct communication between His Majesty's Governments in Great Britain and Canada was inaugurated. On Apr. 25, 1928, Sir Wm. H. Clark was appointed High Commissioner of Great Britain in Canada.

Provincial General Elections.—General elections were held in three of the nine provinces in 1927. In Quebec the result of the general election of May 16 was to sustain in power the government of Hon. L. A. Taschereau. In Prince Edward Island the administration of Hon. J. D. Stewart was defeated at the election