

output of pig iron was 5 p.c. greater in 1929 than in the preceding year. The production of steel ingots and castings during 1929 was 1,379,688 long tons, an increase of 11 p.c. Imports of primary iron and steel products showed a gain in the year of 14.5 p.c. These gains were handed on to subsidiary industries, which were more actively employed than in any other peace-time period of similar duration. Imports of manufactured iron and steel products nevertheless were heavy during the year.

Hydro-Electric Power.—Every important industrial centre throughout the Dominion is served with hydro-electric energy, and most centres have within practicable transmission distance substantial reserves for the future. It has been estimated that every dollar expended on the development and transmission of electric energy involves the expenditure of six dollars in applying the power to its ultimate uses. Hydro development work in progress is accordingly a barometer of marked significance. Among new developments commenced in 1929 may be mentioned the Beauharnois project, contemplating an expenditure of about \$80,000,000. Extensive developments were also underway on the Gatineau and St. Maurice rivers in Quebec, on the Mersey in Nova Scotia, on the upper reaches of the St. John river in New Brunswick, and on the Winnipeg and Churchill rivers in the west. In British Columbia and Ontario increased demands for power from all sections led to an especially active program of construction. The output of electric energy in 1929 was 17,625,897,000 kilowatt hours, as compared with 15,931,447,000 kilowatt hours in 1928, an increase of 10.6 p.c.

Mining.—Though the Canadian mining industry attained successively new production records in each of the three years 1926, 1927, and 1928, still heavier yields were reported in 1929. For the first time the total value of the output exceeded \$307,000,000, new records being established for no less than 11 minerals. Copper, nickel, lead, zinc, petroleum, asbestos and structural materials saw gains aggregating over \$30,000,000. Of even greater promise was the current activity in prospecting and in the opening up of new ore bodies. Mine development and the construction of new smelters and refineries in progress at the close of 1929, also point the way to enlarged outputs. As much of the new construction had not come into production, the high records of 1929 were mainly due to more efficient operation and greater demands upon existing equipment.

Construction.—The value of contracts awarded during 1929 (additions to capital plant) was 22 p.c. greater than during the preceding year, reaching \$576,652,000. In 1928 the total value for the year was \$472,000,000, compared with \$240,000,000 in 1921, the record having passed \$400,000,000 in 1927 for the first time since the war. Building permits issued in sixty-one cities during 1929 were more than 7 p.c. greater than in the preceding year.

Motor Cars.—The automobile industry reacts to much the same conditions as construction; a promising outlook and a high level of purchasing power are prerequisites to expansion. Changes in models, with resulting fluctuations—of which the alteration by the Ford Motor Company in 1927 and 1928 was an example—must, of course, be taken into consideration when interpreting the current trend. The expansion in motor car use, one of the striking features of the post-war period, is well indicated by the increase in registrations from 400,000 in 1920 to nearly 1,200,000 in 1929. In current production, there was a greater rise during the first four months of 1929 than in the same period of any previous year, new monthly