The level of employment in the mines was lower than in 1931, but the reduction in personnel was not so pronounced as in some other industrial groups. The employment index in mining, based on the 1926 average as 100, stood at 99·2, compared with 107·7 in the preceding year, while the number of persons on the pay rolls of the co-operating mine operators averaged 44,800 in 1932. Employment in the extraction of metallic ores was maintained in good volume, although activity was rather less than in 1931; coal mining showed a moderate falling-off from the level of the preceding year, while other non-metallic mineral mines were adversely affected by the general dullness in construction.

Hydro-Electric Power.—Although no new water-power development of any size was started during 1932, projects under way at the beginning of the year and completed during the year increased the total installed capacity to 7,045,260 horse-power, or by 378,923 horse-power. More than half of the total has been developed during the past nine years and almost two-thirds of it since the end of 1918. Work is well under way on three large projects totalling 700,000 horse-power, the major part of which should be completed in 1933. The output of both water and fuel electric power plants in Canada during 1932 amounted to 16,007,119,000 kilowatt hours. This was a decrease from the 1931 output of 323,748,000 kilowatt hours, but the decline of 567,135,000 kilowatt hours in exports to the United States more than accounted for this decrease, indicating an increased consumption in Canada. Canada was second only to the United States in the production of electric energy by central electric stations. In Canada 98 p.c. of the output was produced by water power, whereas the ratio in the United States was 40 p.c.

Manufactures.—In spite of the general curtailment in manufacturing since 1929, certain groups of industries have maintained a fairly high level of activity. This is particularly the case with the food and clothing industries. Thus the index of employment (1926 = 100) in manufactures of edible plant products was 110·9 for 1929 and 94·6 for 1932, of edible animal products, 113·8 in 1929 and 101·5 in 1932, and of textile products, 107·2 in 1929 and 97·0 in 1932. This is more or less to be expected since industries providing many of the necessaries of life are included in these groups. Moreover, these same groups did not expand in production during the period from 1923 to 1929 (see pp. 409-410 of this volume) to anything like the same extent that groups producing luxuries and equipment did. On the other hand, nearly all branches of the iron and steel industry have been severely affected by the depression. In the primary section of the industry, the production of pig iron, which reached a high record at 1,080,000 long tons in 1929, dropped to 420,038 tons in 1931 and to 144,130 tons in 1932, while the production of steel, which reached a total of 1,378,000 long tons in 1929, was 672,109 tons in 1931 and 342,788 tons in 1932. In appraising this curtailment, it should be remembered that in 1929 the industry was more actively employed than in any other peace-time year. Since that time the contraction of operations in the construction industry, the drastically reduced expenditures on improvement and equipment forced upon the railways by falling revenues, and the greatly reduced demand for industrial equipment, agricultural machinery and motor vehicles, have all had a depressing effect upon the volume of operations in the primary iron and steel industry. As indicated, this has been partially due to a falling-off in the activity of the secondary iron and steel industries. The index of employment (1926 = 100) in the agricultural implement industry dropped from an average of 115·6 for 1929 to 37·2 for 1931 and 26·0 for 1932, as a direct result of the reduced purchasing power of the agricultural