

Agriculture.—Unfavourable weather conditions during the growing season greatly reduced the production of field crops. Owing to the marked rise in prices, however, the pecuniary return was greater than in any year since 1930. It is estimated that, by the end of 1936, actual farm prices had risen from about 35 p.c. in 1932 to about 65 p.c. of the level in the base year of 1926, while prices for goods purchased by the farmer had not then risen above 1932 levels, that is, about 82 p.c. of the base level.

The wheat crop of 1936 was very high in grade and quality, partially offsetting the effect of the diminished production. The production of coarse grains and fodder crops declined from that of 1935, on account of the prevalence of drought over large areas of Canada. With production of potatoes about the same as in 1935, price levels advanced and were maintained during the year. The improved export demand was partly due to the decline of 17 p.c. in the crop of the United States.

There was further expansion in the sale of live stock off farms during 1936. Inspected slaughterings, as a measure of market supplies, showed expansion with the index recording a gain of nearly 18·5 p.c. Cattle slaughterings showed a gain of 11·1 p.c., while a much greater gain was shown in hog slaughterings, amounting to no less than 27 p.c. The production of creamery butter, owing to better feed supplies and favourable pasture conditions in dairy districts, and to greater diversion of milk to the creameries, reached a new record output of 250,292,677 pounds, an increase of approximately 9·4 million pounds or 3·9 p.c. over 1935.

Minerals.—Canada's mineral production valued at \$361,394,000 in 1936 showed a gain of 15·7 p.c. over 1935, the previous peak year. Increases in output of most mineral products and improved prices for several metals combined to bring about this maximum.

Canada's output of gold was double that of ten years ago, amounting to 3,735,000 fine ounces. Valued at \$35·03 per ounce, the production of gold was worth \$130,848,000, recording a gain of 13·2 p.c. over 1935. Canada's base metal producers enjoyed an exceptionally progressive year, aided by the steady improvement in the prices of copper, lead, and zinc and by the heavy demand for the metals in British and foreign markets. Production of nickel, lead, and zinc increased in both quantity and value, while copper output, although declining slightly in quantity, also had a higher value due to the rise in prices.

Non-metallic mineral developments were featured by notable gains in the output of asbestos, cement, coal, and natural gas.

Forestry.—Operations in the forestry group of industries were greatly expanded in the year 1936. The production of newsprint reached a new high point in history, being close to the practical limit of capacity, with a gain of 16 p.c. over the previous year. An unsatisfactory feature was the low price level which persisted in spite of the higher cost of operations. One of the features of the rise in operations of the forest industries was the increase in exports of forest products, in which lumber and newsprint played the leading roles. The forestry industry is one of the largest employers of labour, and working forces in logging showed a gain of 9·3 p.c., while both sawmilling and paper industries recorded advances of nearly 8 p.c.

Electric Power.—The year 1936 recorded a peak of electric production in the Dominion, the output showing a gain of 8·9 p.c. over the preceding year. The production of central electric stations, which supply over 90 p.c. of the electric power in Canada, was, in the last calendar year, 25,493 million kilowatt hours, the output in 1935 having amounted to 23,404 million kilowatt hours. The peak