

turns were much less complete. Furthermore, no attempt was made to reach prospectors and small development parties whose expenditures in the aggregate, with so much exploratory activity as exists at present, would amount to a large sum. The figures resulting from these surveys* must, therefore, be regarded as suggestive rather than by any means comprehensive. In 1935, the reported expenditures amounted to almost \$85,000,000, of which freight and express made up 14.7 p.c.; electric power, 12.6 p.c.; fuel and lubricants, 11.7 p.c.; timber and building materials, 7.8 p.c.; explosives, 6.5 p.c.; insurance, 6.0 p.c.; and the remaining 40 p.c. consisted of a great variety of purchases such as machinery and tools, railway equipment, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, rubber goods, chemicals, pipe, etc. The metal mines and smelters accounted for 77.7 p.c. of the expenditures and coal mines for 11.1 p.c. These expenditures were shown by commodity items, by industries, and by provinces at p. 356 of the 1937 Year Book.

Subsection 2.—Growth of the Mining Industry in Recent Years.

Growth, 1922-29.—From 1922 to 1929, the output of the mineral industries increased by 72 p.c., capital investment by 76 p.c., employment by 53 p.c., and the salaries and wages by 65 p.c. Progress was most rapid in the metallic mineral industries, where the expansion in net production amounted to 170 p.c. with proportionate increases in capital and employment. The period from 1922 to 1929 was marked by a rising cycle of activity in construction. This was reflected in the expansion of industries engaged in the production of clay products and other structural materials. The output of this group of industries increased by 47 p.c. during the period, while, within the group, progress was much greater in industries producing cement, gravel, and stone than in the clay products industries. The group of non-metallic mineral industries remained relatively stationary in contrast to the other two main groups during this period of rapid expansion. This may be attributed to the fact that coal mining is the predominant industry in the non-metallic group and, under increasing competition from oil fuels and hydro-electric power, did not participate in the general industrial expansion of the period.

Developments Since 1929.—Following 1929 the mining industry in Canada was affected for some years by the world-wide economic disturbances and by a very drastic decline in the prices of most of the principal metals, especially copper, lead, zinc, and silver. In the case of gold, on the other hand, since 1931 the price has risen to a level about 69 p.c. above that formerly prevailing. Under the influence of the early decline in base-metal prices, the value of the net production of the metallic mineral industries declined by 27 p.c. from 1929 to 1932, with a decline of 29 p.c. in employees and 30 p.c. in salaries and wages paid. But, since the higher price for gold stimulated its production and the readjustment of costs stabilized the base-metal industries, metal production has expanded again, and while the net sales in 1936 were not comparable with those of 1929, employees were 49.3 p.c. above, and salaries and wages 43.3 p.c. above 1929. While industrial statistics for 1937 are not yet available, the production figures for this latest year indicate a continued rapid growth in metal production.

Among the non-metallic industries the demand for coal declined during the depression years owing to reduced requirements in industrial and transportation

* The results of these surveys are given in the "Special Report on the Consumption of Supplies by the Canadian Mining Industry" for 1934 and 1935, published by and obtainable from the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.