

Electric Power.—The output of electric power during 1938 showed a decline of 5·8 p.c. from the maximum of 27,600,000,000 kwh. reached in the preceding year. The reduction was largely accounted for in secondary power delivered to boilers, reflecting a lessened demand for this type of energy by the pulp and paper industry. The output less exports and deliveries to electric boilers was nearly maintained at 18,380,000,000 kwh. against 18,424,000,000, a decline of less than one-quarter of one per cent.

During 1938, a substantial increase was shown in new generating capacity of electric power and in transmission and distribution facilities. Water-power installation during the year was about 135,459 h.p., bringing the total for the Dominion at the end of the year to 8,191,000 h.p. The greater part of the increase was made up by extensions to existing stations in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Quebec. Canada is now the world's second largest per capita producer of electricity.

Fisheries and Trapping.—The fishing industry of the Maritime Provinces was rewarded with good catches in 1938. Difficult marketing conditions developed as demand slackened in several European countries and other outlets had over-abundant supplies. The exports of fish in the twelve months ended December declined over 5 p.c. in value from the preceding year. Salmon canned in British Columbia showed a good gain over 1937. The catch of sockeyes was one of the largest in years and prices were well maintained. As the output of furs is largely exported, the downward fluctuation in the outward movement indicates that the high level of the value recorded in 1937 was not repeated in the year under review. The value of exports in the twelve months ended December, 1938, was \$14,097,000 as against \$17,515,000 in the preceding year.

Manufacturing.—The prices of materials used in manufacturing plants showed a marked drop during the year and net revenues were consequently more favourable than was indicated by indexes of volume and employment. The manufactured output for the year showed a recession from the high level of 1937, but improvement was recorded over 1936 and other post-depression years. Expansion in operations was apparent after August, 1938. The index of the volume of manufactures, based on thirty factors, averaged 107·5 against 123·4. A better relative showing was made by the records of employment, the index having been 111·2 as compared with 114·4.

Construction.—Contracts awarded during 1938 were valued at \$187,300,000, a decline of 16·4 p.c. from the \$224,100,000 reported for the preceding year. Contracts placed for business structures rose 14·5 p.c. while the industrial and engineering divisions showed important decline. The gain in the value of apartments was 34·3 p.c., while residences declined 6·2 p.c. Loans under the National Housing Act amounted to \$14,600,000 in 1938, 17 p.c. above the combined totals for 1936 and 1937. Total Home Improvement loans reported to the Department of Finance to the end of the year amounted to \$24,500,000, numbering 61,299 different projects.

External Trade.—Canadian exports in 1938 were close to the billion-dollar mark. The decline of 15 p.c. from the preceding year was due mainly to the short supply of wheat during the early part of the year, the depressed conditions in external markets, especially the United States, and price reversals. Shipments of wheat in bushels were 37 p.c. less for the first seven months of 1938 than in the same period of the preceding year. Trade with the United Kingdom was practically equal to that of 1937, a gain in base metals and gold largely offsetting the decline in farm products.