

The upward trend in gold production that had prevailed in 1940 was continued in the first four months of 1941, a gain of 4.6 p.c. being recorded over the same period last year. The price of gold remained steady at \$38.5 per fine ounce. Silver shipments, however, fell off by 12.8 p.c. for the 1941 period as compared with the first four months of 1940.

In the fuels group, the upward trend in coal production continued and the gain for the first four months of 1941 over the same period of the preceding year was 4.1 p.c. Employment in the mining industry showed a gain of 1.1 p.c. as compared with the corresponding period of 1940.

Electric Power.—The large increase in electric power production in 1940 was due mainly to the acceleration in mining and industrial operations. New water-power installation during 1940 was about 300,000 h.p., bringing the total hydraulic development as of Jan. 1, 1941, to 8,584,000 h.p. The larger of the two new stations brought into operation during the year was the 178,000 h.p. plant of the St. Maurice Power Co. at La Tuque, Que. Another development was the 7,500 h.p. Hollow Bridge plant of the Avon River Power Co. on Black River, N.S. The largest additions to existing plants included a 53,000 h.p. unit installed in the Beauharnois station on the St. Lawrence River and two units of 25,000 h.p. each in the West Kootenay Power and Light Co., Upper Bonnington station, B.C. Work was commenced on the construction of the Barrett Chute development on Madawaska River about five miles above Calabogie, Ont.; the plant is to have a rated capacity of 56,000 h.p.

These installations brought the development to considerably more than four times that at the end of 1914 when Canada engaged in the War of 1914-18.

Production in the first four months of 1941 was 10,370,000 kwh. against 9,160,000 kwh. in the same period of 1939. The output of firm power for use in Canada recorded a much greater gain.

Manufacturing.—Since the outbreak of war the industrial activity of the Dominion has been increasing at a steadily rising tempo, the index of manufacturing production advancing more than 40 p.c. in the first four months of 1941 over the same period of 1939. Canada has been turned into an arsenal of the Empire where war equipment is produced on a large scale in factories that are free from the risks of aerial bombing.

The expansion in the primary iron and steel industry was typical. The output of steel ingots and castings rose from 351,000 short tons in the first four months of 1939 to 755,000 in the same period of 1941. The production of automobiles and trucks, including military vehicles, was 100,533 against 63,534 in the same months of 1939, the latest pre-war year.

The increase in the number employed in manufacturing industries in the first three months of 1941 over the same period of 1939 was recorded at 36 p.c. It is probable that approximately half of such employees are now engaged, more or less directly, on production associated with war-time needs. This concentration is manifested in unprecedented high levels in the working forces of the iron and steel, non-ferrous metal, electrical apparatus and supply and chemical industries, although the acceleration also extends to most other lines of manufacturing. The production of ships, aircraft and the various classes of land vehicles has reached a stage where a definite shortage of labour is envisaged, a situation which has necessitated the mobilization of the training resources of the Dominion.