

Forestry, Fisheries and Trapping.—The output of essential requirements in forest products was more than maintained in the first half of 1945. Newsprint production in that period was about 1,545,000 tons, slightly above that of the same six months of the preceding year and 15 p.c. greater than the tonnage in the same period of 1939. The main determinant is the scarcity of labour and wood supplies in which there has been as yet no pronounced betterment. The new lumber cut has fallen below the domestic and external requirements, which have recently expanded beyond previous levels. Costs of materials, labour and transportation are greatly in excess of pre-war years, although price control and rationing were a decided help toward keeping costs within bounds. The unprecedented destruction of property in Europe will ensure a wide market for Canadian lumber for a considerable period. (See also Chapter IX, pp. 247-268.)

The Canadian fishing industry, despite its reduced labour force and the inherent difficulties of operation, played an important part in adding to the wartime food supply both of Canada and of the United Kingdom. (See also Chapter XI, pp. 276-292.) During the pre-war period, domestic consumption of fish was small in relation to the output, and the industry must contend with the fact that for an indefinite period after the War the greater part of the production will need to be shipped to other countries. Exports of fishery products were valued at \$33,777,000 in the first half of 1945, an increase of 22 p.c. over the same period of the preceding year.

Since the War began, the fur trade in Canada has been enjoying a considerable measure of prosperity due to the general shortage of raw furs and to the high level of purchasing power contingent on full employment. With the shortage of trappers and personnel for the fur farms the supply of furs has been none too plentiful. Since the lifting of the restrictions on importation imposed upon the introduction of price fixing in 1941, the inward shipment of furs from other countries has shown a marked increase. Despite the closing of the British market, the value of exports in the first six months of the present year was about 65 p.c. greater than in the same period of 1939. (See also Chapter X, pp. 269-275.)

Mining.—Canada's role as the leading exporter of base metals gave the mining industry an opportunity of making a well-nigh indispensable contribution to the war effort. Base-metal mining was greatly extended in operational scope, both by expansion of existing mines and development of new properties including those with marginal and sub-marginal deposits. The value of the exports of non-ferrous metals, minerals and derivatives had, in the first half of 1945, risen 42 p.c. as compared with the first six months of 1939.

Though headway was made in some directions, the total value of output at the turn of the first half of 1945 was running lower than in 1944. Coal, zinc and asbestos recorded increases, while most other metals and minerals receded to lower levels. Employment in the industry as a whole was lower.

From the commencement of hostilities developments in the industry have been governed largely by the changing requirements of the war effort. Operating under difficult conditions, the industry has maintained a high level of production sufficient to meet most of the Canadian requirements and a large share of those of the Allied countries. (See also Chapter XII, pp. 293-330.)