

of the late wet spring which curtailed seeding operations and partly out of the dry weather in Western Canada may cause some reduction in the output of live-stock products during the winter months. Current prospective feed-grain supplies are at their lowest level in six years and, inasmuch as a substantial part of these supplies are in Western Canada, special efforts will be needed to move sufficient quantities eastwards to meet the requirements of eastern live-stock producers. Prospects are for a better than average fruit crop in 1947, though in most instances production will be below the 1946 level.

Forestry, Fishing and Trapping.—Expansion in the forestry industries in the past two years has been marked. With the removal of restrictions on the use of electric power in the pulp and paper industry, production of newsprint increased rapidly in the face of an extremely strong demand. This, together with a keen demand for lumber, both at home and on the export market, has brought activity in the woods to record levels. Higher earnings in the logging industry, average weekly earnings are now about 30 p.c. above their level two years earlier, have attracted more than sufficient labour into the woods to replace the departing prisoners of war and employment has risen about 20 p.c. since the War's end. Accompanying this expansion there have been sharp rises in the prices of newsprint, lumber and similar forest products.

During the War the fishing industry gained substantially and by 1945 its value of production was almost three times as high as its average level in the period 1935 to 1939; slightly over one-half of this increase was the result of higher prices, the remainder being due to greater output. The industry has continued to rely on export markets for two-thirds or more of its total output and its future is tied up with these demands. Prices continued to advance after the end of the War and by the end of 1946, reached a peak of 220·6 on the base 1935-39=100. Since then prices have receded slightly but they are still higher in comparison with the pre-war period than the prices of other types of meat.

Receding prices have also been present in the fur industry. A decline which set in about the middle of 1946 had brought prices by June, 1947, to the lowest level since early 1941 and only about 15 p.c. above the 1935-39 average. In this industry also the value of production had increased to almost triple the pre-war level by 1945-46, but about two-thirds of this increase was due to higher prices. Here again the export market takes a major part of the industries product and falling prices have been reflected in a sharp drop in the value of furs exported during 1947.

Mining.—Activity in Canada's base metal mines has continued at a high level in the post-war period though in most instances production has receded from war-time peaks. The total value of metallic ores produced in 1946 was down about 9 p.c. from 1945. Gold production is rising but, squeezed between rising wage and material costs and the 10 p.c. decline in its price during 1946, it is still substantially below its pre-war level. Sharply higher prices were allowed for almost all of the non-ferrous metal group at the end of 1946 and a further rise occurred in the spring of 1947 when price controls were discontinued.