

foreign production were 3,589,779 lbs. Thus, the apparent consumption of wool in 1921 was 27,441,323 lbs. The quantity of wool used in the knitting and woollen mills in 1921 was 12,239,483 lbs., worth \$4,514,234. The portion used by the knitting mills was 2,320,072 lbs. In addition to the imports of raw wool, valued at \$2,500,000, the following intermediate woollen and worsted goods were imported during 1921 for further manufacture in Canadian mills (values in parentheses): noils 1,247,719 lbs. (\$465,219), tops 3,966,947 lbs. (\$1,953,641), waste 211,212 lbs. (\$116,779), woollen yarn 1,339,778 lbs. (\$1,758,892), and woollen and worsted yarn 213,493 lbs. (\$385,384).

4.—The Iron and Steel Industry.

The manufacture of pig iron and steel is a comparatively new industry in Canada. Industries using imported iron and steel had reached a high stage of development before the manufacture was established on a permanent basis in Canada, although several attempts at manufacturing pig iron had been made on a small scale in earlier years. The ever increasing consumption of iron and steel, and the phenomenal growth of the industry as a whole during the last twenty years, are most strikingly shown by comparing the production of 1923 with that of 1903. The monthly average output of pig iron during the first nine months of 1923 was 63,896 short tons, as compared with a monthly production of 22,021 tons in 1903.

Early Iron and Steel Plants.—*St. Maurice Forges.*—The bog ore in the St. Maurice district near Three Rivers, though previously known to the Indians and Jesuits, was first reported in 1667. Mining operations were begun three years later by Frontenac, but it was not until 1730 that M. Francheville was granted a license to work the mines. The enterprise was not successful, and five years afterwards the firm surrendered its rights to the Crown. The first blast furnace was built in 1737 by Cugnet & Cie. or "La Compagnie des Forges", who were advanced 100,000 livres by Louis XV for the purpose. Six years later the works reverted to the Crown and were operated in the name of the king. Skilled workmen were sent out from France, who rebuilt in part the blast furnace and erected a Walloon hearth for refining. The plant included two pairs of forges, wooden bellows and melting ovens. The chief products, in addition to such intermediate goods as iron bars, included cannons and mortars for military operations, and kettles and stoves which found a ready sale throughout the colony. The iron was obtained from bog ore lying in veins six to eighteen inches deep, resting on white sand and covered with a thin mould. Limestone was used as a flux, and the surrounding forests yielded abundant supplies of charcoal. When the plant was inspected by M. Franquet in 1752 considerable expansion had been effected. Water power was utilized for running the machinery. The boiling metal was poured into a gutter of sand and moulded into stoves, pots and kettles, or cooled and hammered into bars. The iron was of excellent quality, selling at the king's stores at Quebec at the rate of from 25 to 30 castors (beaver skins) per cwt. For one hundred years, the forges were leased to various companies and operated with more or less success. The manufacture of iron was described in 1809 as the most important industry of Canada, and a considerable export trade in cast iron articles, particularly in stoves, was enjoyed. The plant was most active in the 1830's, when mill machinery, large potash kettles, and other cast iron goods, as well as wrought iron for distribution within the province, were the principal articles manufactured, and a quantity of pig iron and bar iron was produced for exportation. The employees numbered 250 to 300 men, of whom the overseers and employees in the model department were English and Scotch and