

(b) REGISTRATION OF MOTOR-VEHICLES.

The number of motor-vehicles registered during the year showed a marked decrease in comparison with the number of registrations effected during each of the six preceding years, as the following table shows :—

Year ended 31st March,				Cars.	Commercial Vehicles.	Cycles.	Total Registrations.
1926	..	..	..	18,811	4,409	5,130	28,350
1927	..	..	..	16,439	4,692	5,464	26,595
1928	..	..	..	12,531	3,399	4,560	20,490
1929	..	..	..	18,739	4,167	4,768	27,674
1930	..	..	..	20,802	5,745	4,300	30,847
1931	..	..	..	12,378	4,113	3,139	19,630
1932	..	..	..	6,151	2,656	2,058	10,865

In last year's report it was stated that the registrations of vehicles manufactured in Great Britain did not during the year 1930-31 show the same percentage decrease as was the case with registrations of vehicles manufactured in other countries. These remarks apply also to the registrations effected during the year 1931-32. The following table indicates the country of manufacture and the number of vehicles registered during the financial years 1926-27 to 1931-32, inclusive :—

Year ended 31st March,				Great Britain.	United States of America or Canada.	Other Countries.	Total Registrations.
<i>Motor-cars.</i>							
1927	..	..	..	2,185	13,623	631	16,439
1928	..	..	..	2,172	10,078	281	12,531
1929	..	..	..	2,886	15,667	186	18,739
1930	..	..	..	3,675	16,993	134	20,802
1931	..	..	..	3,265	9,057	56	12,378
1932	..	..	..	2,607	3,477	67	6,151
Totals	..	..	..	16,790	68,895	1,355	87,040
<i>Commercial Vehicles.</i>							
1927	..	..	..	630	3,907	155	4,692
1928	..	..	..	522	2,706	171	3,399
1929	..	..	..	522	3,318	327	4,167
1930	..	..	..	502	4,792	451	5,745
1931	..	..	..	392	3,225	496	4,113
1932	..	..	..	447	1,574	635	2,656
Totals	..	..	..	3,015	19,522	2,235	24,772
<i>Motor-cycles.</i>							
1927	..	..	..	3,851	1,592	21	5,464
1928	..	..	..	3,479	1,067	14	4,560
1929	..	..	..	3,794	949	25	4,768
1930	..	..	..	3,486	802	12	4,300
1931	..	..	..	2,581	548	10	3,139
1932	..	..	..	1,567	483	8	2,058
Totals	..	..	..	18,758	5,441	90	24,289

NOTE.—The figures under the heading “Other Countries” include a large number of trailers, most of which are manufactured in the Dominion.

The foregoing table affords definite evidence of a further halting tendency in the motor industry. The number of registrations of motor-cars was only half that recorded for the previous year and less than one-third of the number for 1929-30 ; figures for trucks declined by 35 per cent., and those for motor-cycles by the same amount. The analyses by country of manufacture direct attention to the swing-over from United States of America and Canada to Great Britain. In motor-cars the rapidity and magnitude of the swing-over is remarkable. The registrations in 1931-32 of motor-cars manufactured in Great Britain represented 71 per cent. of the number for 1929-30, while the same percentage for cars manufactured in the United States and Canada was only 21 per cent. The registrations of commercial vehicles, although of smaller magnitude, are of no less interest : the registrations for vehicles manufactured in Great Britain in 1931-32 represented 89 per cent. of the figure for 1929-30, against only 33 per cent. in the case of vehicles manufactured in the United States of America and Canada.