

The World's Mercantile Shipbuilding

The Summary For The Year 1921 as Compiled by Lloyd's Register of Shipping —For the First Time Since 1913 Figures for Germany Are Given

THE ANNUAL Summary of the Mercantile Shipbuilding of the World, which has just been issued by Lloyd's Register of Shipping, shows that the world's total output during 1921 was 4,341,679 tons, which is a decrease of about 1½ million tons as compared with 1920, but exceeds by over a million tons the output for 1913, which was the pre-war record year for the world. The total figures comprise 167 vessels of about 1,195,000 tons to be fitted with steam turbines; they also include 151 vessels of about 1,050,000 tons built to carry oil in bulk. Of the 1377 vessels launched in the world during the year, 47 are of over 10,000 tons each. During the four years 1918-1921 the total addition to the world's merchant navies by new construction amounts to nearly 23 million tons.

Of the total tonnage launched in the world during 1921, 2,538,680 tons were built under the survey of Lloyd's Register with a view to classification with that Society, and the diagram, included in this Summary, shows that during the last 15 years nearly 29½ million tons of new vessels have been launched which were built under the supervision of Lloyd's Register. The Annual Summary draws special attention to the present circumstances, and to the immediate future, of the shipbuilding industry of the world, and points out that although the tonnage under construction at the end of 1921, viz., 4,457,093 tons, is no less than 2,722,000 tons lower than in December, 1920, even the present reduced figures are not a correct index of the position of the shipbuilding industry unless certain factors be taken into consideration, such as the very large number of vessels, included in the totals, but the construction of which is now suspended, and the fact that the orders for new vessels have been for some time and are now far below those in normal times.

The total gross tonnage of merchant vessels launched in the United Kingdom during 1921 amounts to 1,538,052 tons, of which 964,182 tons are intended for registration in the United Kingdom and 591,870 tons are for owners residing abroad. The totals for 1921 are 517,572 tons less than for 1920, which remains the record year. The total figures include 103 vessels of between 5,000 and 10,000 tons and 24 of over 10,000 tons, the largest being the *Laconia* of 19,730 tons built by the Cunard Line. Including nearly all the vessels of over 12,000 tons, 70 vessels with a total tonnage of 624,487 tons were launched which will

be fitted with steam turbines. The motor vessels launched amounted to 28 of 102,356 tons, the largest being one of about 9,500 tons. The output of the leading shipbuilding districts is as follows:—Glasgow, 358,347 tons; Newcastle, 354,813 tons; Greenock, 146,842 tons; and Sunderland 144,280 tons. The largest decrease during 1921 has taken place on the Clyde, where the tonnage launched is 175,277 tons lower than during 1920; the decrease for the Wear is 170,174 tons and for the Tees 105,013 tons. The total launched abroad during 1921 amounts to 2,803,627 tons, a reduction of just over one million tons as compared with 1920. The countries where the largest output has taken place during the year are:—United States, 1,006,413 tons; Germany, 509,064 tons; Holland, 232,402 tons; Japan, 227,425 tons; France, 210,663 tons; and Italy, 164,748 tons. The totals for the United States are nearly one million and a half tons lower than in 1920. For the first time since 1913 complete figures are available for Germany, and totals for that country include 40 vessels of between 4,000 and 7,000 tons, 13 of between 7,000 and 10,000 tons, and one vessel of about 14,000 tons. The totals for Holland, France, Italy, Denmark and Sweden are the highest on record in each case.

United Kingdom

During the year 1921 there have been launched in the United Kingdom 426 merchant vessels of 1,538,052 tons (viz., 371 steamers of 1,429,757 tons, 28 motor vessels of 102,356 tons and 27 barges of 5,939 tons. These vessels have been built of steel with the exception of three vessels of 1,273 tons and one vessel of reinforced concrete has been launched during the year.

The output for 1921 is 517,572 tons lower than the record figures for 1920, and equals about 35.5 per cent. of the world's output for 1921, as compared with 58 per cent.

Of the tonnage launched during the year, 946,182 tons are for registration in the United Kingdom and 591,870 tons (about 38.5 per cent. of the total tonnage), are for owners residing abroad. The percentage, although slightly lower than that for the previous year, is considerably higher than the pre-war figures which, for the five years 1909-1913, gave an average of 22-1/3 per cent.

Of the tonnage launched in 1921, 134,551 tons are for Norwegian owners, 127,854 tons for French owners, 123,811 tons for Dutch owners, and 66,373 tons

for owners in the British Dominions.

Size and Type of Vessels

The returns for 1921 show that 103 vessels of between 5,000 and 10,000 tons each and 24 vessels of 10,000 tons and upwards were launched; the following are the ten largest:—*Laconia* (19,730), *Windsor Castle* (19,000), *Conte Rosso* (18,500), *Tuscania* (17,250), *Moldavia* (16,510), *Montclare* (16,400), *Antonia* (13,920), *Esperance Bay* (13,850), *Hobson Bay* (13,850), *Moreton Bay* (13,850).

Excluding vessels of less than 1,000 tons, 38 vessels of about 250,000 tons for the carriage of oil in bulk were launched during 1921. Of these, 27 vessels of about 195,000 tons were built on the Isherwood system of longitudinal framing, besides two other vessels of 14,000 tons. The returns also include a large number of vessels designed for channel, fishing, harbor service, and other special purposes.

The average tonnage of steamers and motor vessels launched in the United Kingdom during 1921 is 3,840 tons; but if those of less than 500 tons be excluded, the average reaches 4,602 tons, compared with 4,387 in 1920, 4,006 in 1919, 4,593 in 1918, 4,993 in 1917, and 4,080 in 1916.

The great increase which was recorded last year in the use of steam turbines has been continued during 1921, when 70 vessels with a total tonnage of 624,487 tons were launched, which will be fitted with this method of propulsion and practically all of them will have geared turbines. It may be stated that all the large vessels mentioned above, and, with the exception of two, all other vessels of 12,000 tons and upwards launched during the year, are to be fitted with turbines. During the year, 28 motor vessels of 102,356 tons have been launched and 11 of them are of 5,000 tons and upwards, the largest being of about 9,500 tons.

Output of Leading Ports

The Glasgow district occupies first place among the shipbuilding centres of the country, showing an output of 358,347 tons. Then follow Newcastle (354,813 tons), Greenock (146,842 tons), Sunderland (144,280 tons), Middlesbrough (129,559 tons), and Belfast (93,373 tons). The largest decrease as compared with 1920 has taken place on the Clyde, the figures for which are 175,277 tons lower than the previous year. The decrease for the Wear is 170,174 tons, and for the Tees 105,013 tons, while in the Barrow district an actual increase of 26,137 tons is recorded.