

Table 3, presenting the total amount of world production by years, shows that the increase was remarkably steady until it was disturbed by the World War. A decided rise in the amount of production during 1916, 1917, and 1918 was followed by an even more decided reaction. Recovery from the latter was relatively slow, and the pre-war trend was resumed only in 1926 after 11 years of disturbance.

TABLE 3.—*World production of copper, by years, 1881-1927 (short tons)*

Year	Production	Year	Production	Year	Production	Year	Production
1881.....	181,342	1893.....	334,928	1905.....	778,841	1917.....	1,575,281
1882.....	202,036	1894.....	353,493	1906.....	797,777	1918.....	1,574,256
1883.....	224,306	1895.....	368,963	1907.....	794,704	1919.....	1,095,617
1884.....	245,005	1896.....	422,838	1908.....	820,104	1920.....	1,057,168
1885.....	253,120	1897.....	454,531	1909.....	912,241	1921.....	614,636
1886.....	241,089	1898.....	480,904	1910.....	946,130	1922.....	934,927
1887.....	250,538	1899.....	519,336	1911.....	980,761	1923.....	1,354,796
1888.....	294,803	1900.....	545,439	1912.....	1,102,509	1924.....	1,479,377
1889.....	291,018	1901.....	580,011	1913.....	1,090,629	1925.....	1,526,995
1890.....	305,334	1902.....	615,052	1914.....	1,027,051	1926.....	1,629,140
1891.....	316,672	1903.....	656,482	1915.....	1,165,447	1927 <sup>1</sup> .....	1,674,818
1892.....	352,249	1904.....	726,992	1916.....	1,518,622		

<sup>1</sup> American Bureau of Metal Statistics, 1927.

Figure 4 shows annual world production by years, with a trend line, *a-b*, based on a moving average of five years, to the year 1913, after which its dotted projection, *b-c*, is merely extended to meet the production curve at 1926. Apparently the course of this projection might suggest the minimum expectancy of copper production during the next few years. If this were so, production would exceed 1,800,000 short tons a year by 1930. It should not be assumed, however, that the existing rate of increase in copper production can persist for many more years. Since 1800 the increase in copper production has averaged 180 per cent each quarter century, amounting finally to 25,726,000 tons for the quarter 1901-1925. Such a rate of increase, if continued, would require a production of 72,000,000 tons for 1926-1950, 200,000,000 tons for 1951-1975, and 565,000,000 tons for 1976-2000, a total of 862,000,000 tons for the twentieth century in contrast to less than 12,000,000 tons for the nineteenth. Of course, the known world resources of copper would be inadequate to meet any such demand.

Table 4 gives the monthly production and the average daily rate of production, by months, during the last three years, as reported by a responsible commercial agency. This is the most prompt estimate of world production of copper that becomes available to the public.

The average annual increase for the brief period shown amounts to 58,735 tons, which is less than the average yearly increase for any five-year period since 1890 with the exception of the period 1921-1925, when production actually decreased. This suggests that the rapid geometrical rate of increase in production is now tending to diminish.