

17.—Production and Export of Wheat Flour by Months during the Crop Year ended August 31st, 1923.

Month.	Wheat Ground.	Wheat Flour Produced.	Wheat Flour Exported.
	Bushels.	Barrels.	Barrels.
1922			
September.....	6,881,523	1,552,566	697,379
October.....	9,452,479	2,156,257	855,232
November.....	9,758,599	2,228,401	1,214,462
December.....	8,520,698	1,947,775	1,463,651
1923			
January.....	7,218,825	1,643,794	1,025,357
February.....	6,432,297	1,472,959	779,418
March.....	7,363,245	1,676,668	1,220,942
April.....	6,057,907	1,383,188	832,298
May.....	5,777,454	1,325,246	644,725
June.....	5,001,673	1,145,936	904,619
July.....	5,310,925	1,206,774	775,176
August.....	4,656,665	1,058,014	656,795
Total 1922-23.....	82,432,290	18,797,578	11,069,054
Total 1921-22.....	69,530,356	15,527,310	7,878,589

Other Statistics.—The total number employed in 1921 in the flour milling industry was 7,024, with a total annual payroll of \$8.3 million. The mills had in 1921 a physical value of approximately \$37,000,000, and the working capital employed was another \$22,000,000. These mills are widely scattered, every province having a share, though the following lead with capital investment in millions of dollars as follows: Ontario, \$33.5; Quebec, \$11.0; Manitoba, \$6.4; Saskatchewan, \$5.0 and Alberta, \$3.7.

The total power equipment of the industry was 118,825 horse power, of which 52,635 was the rated capacity of the electric motors. To a very great extent future expansion will be governed by the development of hydro-electric power. The operation of flour mills is not a business in which much labour is employed, hence the relatively high wage standard in Canada is no great handicap in the competition for export business. The superlative quality of the country's wheat, combined with its natural advantages for the location and operation of mills, supplies a basis for a manufacturing industry of the greatest importance.¹

2.—The Boot and Shoe Industry.

The boot and shoe manufacturing industry in Canada dates back to the earliest days. It is first mentioned in communications forwarded to France by the Jesuits in 1667, stating that it was impossible for a country to exist entirely without manufactures, and that there was already in operation in the colony a shop for the manufacture of shoes and hats. The first census of New France, taken in 1667, records a population of 3,215 persons, including 20 shoemakers. In 1671 approximately one-third of all shoes were manufactured from leather locally tanned. The tanning processes until about this time were exclusively carried on by farmers. The first transitional stage in the industry was taken when a tannery was established at Quebec in 1670 and ox and moose skins were subjected to the tanning process.

Progress of the Industry.—No public record is readily available on the development of the boot and shoe manufacturing industry during the next hundred years. Up to about 1860 the retailers had been purchasing their stocks mostly from

¹A special historical survey of the flour milling industry was issued by the Bureau of Statistics in 1923