

in the number of establishments included from 21,306 in 1915 to 34,392¹ in 1917—an increase due mainly to change of method, rather than to a change in the actual number of industrial establishments existing in the Dominion. In the taking of an annual canvass of the wide scope of the Canadian industrial census, it is inevitable that changes in the number of reporting industries shall be made from time to time, interfering with the comparability of the results. The statistics in regard to a large number of the custom and repair industries were not collected for 1922, resulting in the dropping from the compilation of the entire group of “construction, hand trades and repairs.” Again, several custom industries, such as the custom clothing industry in the textile group, were not compiled for 1922. For 1923 again, statistics of ship and bridge-building and of various clay-products industries were collected and included for the first time. The result has been that, in order to restore the desired comparability between statistics of various years, a complete revision of all figures from 1917 to 1923 has been made. Considerable changes have resulted, but statistics of these years are now free of all inaccuracies due to changes in methods of collection or compilation.

Censuses of Manufactures in Recent Years.—The census of manufactures has since 1917 been taken annually by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, instead of quinquennially as theretofore. The last of the quinquennial censuses was taken in 1916 for the calendar year 1915, and annual censuses have been taken in the years from 1918 to 1924 for the years 1917 to 1923.

In any comparison between the results of the 1915 quinquennial census and the subsequent annual censuses, the rapid rise in prices must be borne in mind, and in comparisons between these annual censuses themselves the same factor must be taken into account. Thus, the new Canadian index number of wholesale prices, compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was 248·2 in 1920, as compared with 213·2 in 1919, 207·8 in 1918, 174·6 in 1917 and 115·6 in 1915. In 1921, however, there was a great decline to 177·3—a decline of approximately 28·6 p.c. from the preceding year. Under such circumstances, it was inevitable that up to 1920 phenomenal advances in the money value of manufactured products should have been recorded, and that wages and salaries paid should also have greatly advanced since 1915. It was equally inevitable that in all these respects 1921 should show a great decline, due in much larger measure to the fall in values than to the decrease in physical production. In 1923 the index number was 153·0—an increase of less than 1 p.c. over 1922 and a drop of 11 p.c. from 1921 prices. This would indicate that the comparatively small decline in the gross production of manufactured goods in 1922 was entirely due to declining values and that the increased production of 1923 has resulted from larger quantities. (See Table 3).

In Table 1 are presented statistics showing by provinces the development of Canadian manufacturing industries during the half-century from 1870 to 1923. Particularly notable is the increase in the manufactures of British Columbia from \$2,900,000 in 1880 to \$176,000,000 in 1923, and of Manitoba from \$3,400,000 in 1880 to \$97,000,000 in 1923. Saskatchewan also shows an increase from \$2,400,000 in 1905 to \$34,000,000 in 1923 and Alberta from \$5,000,000 in 1905 to \$54,000,000 in 1923. Thus the West is rapidly becoming an important contributor to Canadian manufacturing production.

¹ The subsequent decision to omit the group of “construction, hand trades and repairs” from the census of manufactures, together with other less important changes, accounts for the reduction of the number of manufacturing establishments in 1917, as appearing in Table 1, to 22,838, a comparable figure with the 2,642 establishments recorded in 1923.