

Subsection 1.—Growth of Manufacturing Production in the Dominion and the Provinces since 1870.

The growth of large-scale production in manufactures during the past 50 years is evident from the statistics of Table 1, though this tendency has been less marked in Canada than in more highly developed industrial communities, with larger populations able to absorb a larger amount of standardized commodities. Even so, in the electoral district of South Toronto, the most important manufacturing centre of Ontario, the census of 1911 showed that one-half of the industrial establishments employed 90 p.c. of the workers. In the period immediately preceding the Great War many consolidations of independent manufacturing plants were effected, involving large economies in the purchase of materials and in selling expenses.

The historical Table 1 shows fairly well the advance of the "Industrial Revolution" (which might better be called "evolution") in Canada. The average capital per manufacturing establishment, the average number of employees per establishment and the average value of product per establishment, if allowance be made for the inflation of values and generally disturbed conditions of the war period, have continued to increase. If the consolidation of industry lessens the chances of an employee becoming a master, it must also be remembered that the amounts paid to employees in salaries and wages have also increased, so that the position of the average employee has been greatly ameliorated, though the lack of statistics of Canadian retail prices before 1890 prevents any detailed comparison of the purchasing power of the average wages of the worker of 1870 and of the employee of the present.

The Censuses of Manufactures.—The comparability of the statistics of various censuses is seriously affected by the different methods employed in census-taking. In the censuses of 1870, 1880 and 1890, all manufacturing establishments were included, the instructions to enumerators running as follows:—"An industrial establishment is a place where one or several persons are employed, in manufacturing, altering, making up or changing from one shape into another materials for sale, use or consumption, quite irrespectively of the amount of capital employed or of the products turned out. All repairs, mending or custom work are understood to be industrial products and are to be entered accordingly, by value, in the returns of industrial establishments"

In the statistics of 1900, 1905 and 1910, however, only establishments employing five hands and upwards were included. The 1901 instructions were that no manufacturing establishment or factory was to be recognized for census purposes if it did not employ at least five persons, either in the establishment itself or as piece-workers employed outside of it. This, however, did not apply to cheese and butter factories nor to certain mineral industries. The 1911 instructions stated that every factory in operation during the whole or part of 1910, and employing five or more persons, was to make a full report. All flour-mills, saw and shingle-mills, lime kilns, brick and tile works, butter and cheese factories, fish-curing plants, electric light and power plants whatsoever were nevertheless to be included. The statistics for 1915 included only establishments having an output of \$2,500 or over, irrespective of the number of persons employed, except in the case of flour and grist-mills, butter and cheese factories, fish-preserving factories, sawmills, brick and tile yards, lime kilns and electric light plants, where all plants were included.

Under the Statistics Act of 1918, the policy of including mines, fisheries, manufactures and other industrial production in the decennial census was given