

CHAPTER XIV.—MANUFACTURES.¹

Manufacture is defined as the operation of making wares from raw materials by the hands, by tools or by machinery, thus adding, in the phraseology of the economist, new utilities, and therefore additional value, to the already existing utilities and values of the raw material. Manufacture, in primitive societies and in the pioneer stages of new communities, is normally carried on within the household for the needs of the household, as was the case among the early settlers of Canada in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when domestic manufactures were carried on in combination with the cultivation of the soil, mainly at the times of the year when agricultural operations were suspended. At a later period in the evolution of society small manufactures were carried on in specialized workshops for the needs of the immediate locality or neighbourhood, as was generally the case in Eastern Canada in the first half of the nineteenth century. Later still, as a consequence of the introduction of machinery operated by steam or electric power—the so-called “industrial revolution”—and of the cheapening of transportation, manufacture has to an ever-increasing extent been concentrated in factories, often employing hundreds and even thousands of persons and producing for a national or even an international market. So far as Canada is concerned, this “industrial revolution” may be said to have commenced shortly before Confederation and to be still in progress. The growth of manufacturing production since 1870 is outlined in this article and the accompanying Table 1, while the increasing importance of Canadian manufacturing for the international market may be illustrated by the fact that Canadian exports of manufactured produce increased from less than \$3,000,000 per annum on the average of 1871-1875 to \$614,000,000 in the post-war fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1920. Exports of “fully or chiefly manufactured” products in the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1931, amounted in value to \$352,108,830 and exports of “partly manufactured” products to \$142,452,920.

Section 1.—The Evolution of Canadian Manufacturing Industries.

Early Manufactures.—The type of manufactures established in a community will in the beginning be largely determined, more especially where transportation charges are high, by the raw materials available in that community. For example, probably the first agricultural process to be carried on by Europeans in what is now the Dominion of Canada was the raising of a crop of grain at Port Royal, Nova Scotia, in 1605; the first corresponding manufacturing process was the grinding of the grain in the autumn of that year. Other early manufactures were also necessarily connected with the satisfaction of the primary needs of human beings for food, clothing and shelter, and with the other primary need for protection. At a census of occupations taken in 1681, we find enumerated a comparatively large number of tailors and shoemakers, masons and carpenters, gunsmiths and edge-tool makers.

The earlier manufactures were necessarily of a rather crude and primitive type, concerned with the production of commodities which were too bulky to bear the heavy transportation charges of those days, when only one round trip per year

¹ Revised by A. Cohen, B. Com., Acting Chief, Industrial Statistics Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch publishes individual reports on the manufacturing industries, comprising vegetable products, textiles and miscellaneous industries, also reports on the manufacturing industries generally for Canada and the provinces. For a complete list of publications of this Branch see Chapter XXIX, Section 1, under “Production”