

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.

Censuses of Manufactures in Recent Years.—Under the Statistics Act of 1918, the policy of including mines, fisheries, manufactures and other industries in the decennial census was given up and an annual "Census of Industry" substituted therefor. (See Annual Report of the Dominion Statistician, 1919, pp. 30-36.)

In the Census of Industry for 1917 the limit of output was withdrawn and all establishments reporting to the Bureau were included, the effect being an increase in the number of establishments included from 21,306 in 1915 to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. 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". 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 was that, in order to restore the desired comparability between statistics of various years, a complete revision of all figures from 1917 to 1924 had to be 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. In 1925 statistics of the non-ferrous metal smelting industry were, for the first time, included in the figures for manufacturing. Certain duplications in the revenues of central electric stations have not been uniformly treated, but net revenues only are now shown for 1926 and later years. The method of compiling the number of employees was changed for 1925 and subsequent years in the following respect: the yearly average of employees for each establishment was computed by dividing the sum of employees reported in each month by the number of months in operation instead of, as formerly, by 12 whether the industry was seasonal and only operated part of the year or not. These changes have created a slight incomparability with the statistics for the preceding years.

In any comparison between the results of the 1915 quinquennial census and the subsequent annual censuses, the rapid rise and fall 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 weighted index number of wholesale prices, compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics with 1926 as a base, was 155.9 in 1920 as compared with 134.0 in 1919, 127.4 in 1918, 114.3 in 1917 and 70.4 in 1915. In 1921, however, there was a great decline to 110.0—a decline of approximately 29.4 p.c. from the preceding year. In 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 the volume of production. In 1922 the index number showed a further drop to 97.3, but afterwards there was a rise to 98.0 in

¹The 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 23,597 establishments recorded in 1929, the 24,020 in 1930 and the 24,501 in 1931.