

Subsection 3.—Manufactures Classified by Origin of the Materials.

Classification of Manufacturing Production According to the Origin of the Materials Worked Upon.—The principal statistics of the manufactures of Canada, classified upon the basis of "origin", are presented in Table 9 for the years 1924, 1927, 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932. By this means Canadian manufacturing production may be analysed from a new angle, one by means of which interesting comparisons may be made with the external trade classification according to origin.

The distinction made between farm materials of Canadian and foreign origin is based on whether the materials are indigenous to Canada rather than their actual source. Thus, the industries included in the foreign origin classes are those depending upon materials which cannot be grown in Canada such as tea, coffee, spices, cane sugar, rice, rubber, cotton, etc., but it should be understood that industries included in the Canadian origin classes may be using large quantities of imported corn, fruit, tobacco, hides, wool, etc.

While the period reviewed in the following table only covers the short space of the 9 years from 1924 to 1932, interesting changes have taken place in the relative importance of the industries based on materials from the different origins. Since the purpose of such a comparison is to discover the relative importance of the manufacturing work done upon materials from the different origins, the figures of net value of products or the value added to the raw materials by the manufacturing processes will give a more accurate measure of the importance of the industrial groups than the figures of gross value of products.

The values added in the manufacture of materials of farm origin represented 30.8 p.c. of the total value added by manufacture in all industries. This group remained stationary, having advanced but 0.1 p.c. since 1924. The second largest group from the point of view of value added is that of mineral origin which accounted for 28.7 p.c. of the total value in 1932. This group, however, rose in importance, having increased 0.9 p.c. since 1924. The values added by the industries of the forest group which are third in importance declined from 23.8 p.c. of the total in 1924 to 18.9 p.c. in 1932. This was the greatest decline of any group. On the other hand, central electric stations bettered their position, the percentages of the totals being 7.6 in 1924 and 11.0 in 1932. The increase during the period under review in the relative importance of the industries of the mineral group was probably due to a number of influences. The expansion of the motor vehicle industry, the rapid growth in the use of electrical equipment, increasing activity in construction which absorbed large quantities of steel, cement and various other manufactured mineral products, and the development of metallurgical plants in Canada were some factors in the growing importance of the mineral group of industries. Another factor in this trend has been the growing appreciation and development of the wealth of the mineral resources of Canada. Not only have the various mining activities made the raw materials for mineral industries more readily available, but those activities have also required large quantities of machinery, electrical apparatus and other finished products of mineral origin.