

Subsection 3.—The Manufactures of Ontario, 1934.

Ontario is the most important manufacturing province of the Dominion. The gross value of its manufactured products in 1934 represented about 50 p.c. of those of the whole Dominion, while those of Quebec, the second province in importance in this respect, amounted to 30 p.c. This premier position in manufacturing has been fairly uniformly maintained by Ontario over a long period, as the following percentages show: in 1926, 52 p.c.; 1918, 53 p.c.; 1910, 50 p.c.; 1900, 50 p.c.; 1890, 51 p.c.; and 1880, 51 p.c. Thus, in spite of the rapid industrial development in recent years in other provinces such as Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba, Ontario is maintaining a manufacturing production almost equal to that of the remainder of the Dominion.

The value of manufactured products totalled \$1,255,325,701 in 1934. In value of production, non-ferrous metal smelting heads the list with an output valued at \$85,989,197. Other leading industries in the order of their importance are: automobiles \$75,649,429, slaughtering and meat packing \$51,513,133, flour and feed mills \$50,659,130, pulp and paper \$47,298,680, rubber goods, including footwear \$44,937,204, central electric stations \$43,498,715, and butter and cheese \$40,905,534. Some significant changes took place in the ranking of some of the leading industries. Flour and feed mills dropped from first place in 1933 to fourth place in 1934, while non-ferrous metal smelting, automobiles and slaughtering and meat packing each advanced one step. It is particularly interesting to note that non-ferrous metal smelting was for the first time the dominant industry of the province, displacing that of automobiles which for a number of years prior to the depression was the leading industry.

The turning point of the depression was reached in the summer of 1933. The increases in the latter part of the year were not, however, sufficiently pronounced to offset the losses of the beginning of the year. The result was that the principal statistics for 1933 were the lowest since 1929. Considerable improvement was reported for 1934. Compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 10·1 p.c. in the number of employees, with an even greater increase in the amount paid out in salaries and wages, namely, 15·5 p.c. The increase in the value of production was 24·9 p.c. and in the value added by manufacture 20 p.c.

The depression was particularly hard on industries producing capital or durable goods, and these constitute an important factor in the manufactures of Ontario. Thus, production was disproportionately curtailed in such important industries of the province as automobiles, electrical equipment, machinery, agricultural implements, primary iron and steel, etc. This resulted not only in a drop in the rank of such industries within the province, but in a lowering of the manufacturing production of the whole province relatively to that of other provinces less affected by these influences. Some of these industries, particularly automobiles and primary iron and steel, have made a good recovery since 1933.

Indicating the greater diversification of industry in Ontario as compared with Quebec, the percentages which the forty leading industries bore to the total manufactures of the province were higher in nearly every particular in Quebec than in Ontario, especially in the capital employed and the number of establishments and employees. Outstanding among the industries in which the province of Ontario was pre-eminent, was that of automobile manufacturing, which was carried on practically in this province alone. Other important industries in which Ontario led, with the percentage which the production of each bore to that of the Dominion in 1934, were as follows: agricultural implements 95 p.c.; leather tanneries, 88 p.c.;