

Subsection 3.—The Manufactures of Ontario, 1936.

Ontario is the most important manufacturing province of the Dominion. The gross value of its manufactured products in 1936 represented about 51.5 p.c. of the total for the whole Dominion, while that of Quebec, the second province in importance in this respect, amounted to about 29 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 roughly equal to that of the remainder of the Dominion.

The geographic position of Ontario on the Great Lakes waterway system, by means of which the iron ore of Minnesota and the coal of Pennsylvania are readily accessible, has resulted in a greater development of the iron and steel industries in this province than in any other. The province is endowed with a wide range of natural resources of forests, minerals, water powers, and agriculture. Its large population and central position in Canada, with excellent water and rail transportation facilities to other parts of the country, have encouraged industrial development. Other factors in this development have been its proximity to one of the most densely populated sections of the United States and the establishment within the province of branch factories of United States industries as in automobile manufacturing.

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 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. Since 1933, however, these industries in general have made a good recovery, and Ontario, which accounted for 49 p.c. of the gross value of all products manufactured in the Dominion in 1933, had by 1936 increased the relative value to 51.5 p.c.

Outstanding among 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 1936, were as follows: agricultural implements, 96 p.c.; leather tanneries, 89 p.c.; rubber goods, 81 p.c.; furniture, 61 p.c.; fruit and vegetable canning, preserving, etc., 70 p.c.; electrical apparatus and supplies, 77 p.c.; castings and forgings, 64 p.c.; primary iron and steel, 64 p.c.; slaughtering and meat packing, 42 p.c.; flour and feed mills, 55 p.c.; hosiery and knitted goods, 62 p.c.