

CHAPTER XIV.—MANUFACTURES.

CONSPECTUS.

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This chapter deals with manufacturing industries in Canada in two main Parts. Part I gives general analyses of manufactures in the Dominion and Part II deals with the provincial and local distribution of manufacturing production.

With regard to the first section of Part I, dealing with historical development, it has been impossible to compile absolutely comparable statistics over a long period of years. From 1870 to 1915 statistics were collected only in connection with decennial or quinquennial censuses, and there was inevitably some variation in the information collected. The annual Census of Manufactures was instituted in 1917 and, while numerous changes have been made since then in the information collected and the treatment of the data, an effort has been made in the present edition to carry all major revisions, in so far as possible, back to 1917, so that the figures for the period since then are on a reasonably comparable basis.

The Evolution of Canadian Manufacturing Industries.—The type of manufactures established in a community will, in the beginning, be determined largely by the raw materials available in that community, more especially where transportation charges are high. For example, the first agricultural process to be carried on by Europeans in what is now the Dominion of Canada was probably 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 necessarily connected with the satisfaction of the primary needs of human beings for food, clothing, and shelter, and with the other primary need—protection.

Since the earliest settlements, two main influences have been operating upon the development of manufacturing in Canada: first, the domestic requirements of the growing Canadian population; and secondly, the processing of natural products of Canada to change them to more suitable forms for export. The comparatively small home market, a large part of it in scattered agricultural areas, has always limited the range of goods that may be economically manufactured in Canada for that market. As the Canadian population increases and as the means of distribution improve, the range of goods that may be efficiently manufactured for the home market is being constantly widened, although, as the general standard of living in