

A word should be added as regards the value to be placed upon figures of assets and liabilities. Such values are estimates made by the debtor and unfortunately are not uniformly made. The human equation enters into them to a considerable degree and they must be accepted with this qualification.

Section 3 is limited to the administration of bankrupt estates by the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, under the Bankruptcy Act (including the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act). This Section, however, gives definite information on the amounts realized from the assets as established by debtors and indicates that values actually paid to creditors are invariably very much lower than such estimates alone would imply. It can be assumed that this applies in even greater degree to the extended fields covered in Sections 1 and 2.

Section 1.—Industrial and Commercial Failures from Private Sources.

A historical table giving failures for Canada and Newfoundland by classes for the years 1915 to 1935 appears at p. 969 of the 1936 Year Book. Early in 1936, however, Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated, from whose reports these figures were taken, adopted a new method of classification. The principal changes consisted of setting up a new group of construction enterprises previously included in manufacturing and a new class for commercial service. Real estate companies, holding and other financial companies, and agents of various kinds were dropped. These changes have had the effect of confining the failure records more to industrial and commercial lines of activity, and liabilities are reduced more in proportion to the number of failures since the companies eliminated usually ran high in indebtedness. The present figures of Table 1 are not comparable with those given at p. 969 of the 1936 Year Book, because of the above reasons and because the earlier statistics cover Canada and Newfoundland whereas these are for Canada only.

1.—Industrial and Commercial Failures in Canada, by Classes, 1934-39, and by Provinces, 1939.

(From Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated.)

Year and Province.	Manu- facturing.		Wholesale Trade.		Retail Trade.		Con- struction.		Commercial Service.		Totals.	
	No.	Lia- bilities.	No.	Lia- bilities.	No.	Lia- bilities.	No.	Lia- bilities.	No.	Lia- bilities.	No.	Lia- bilities.
		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000
Totals, 1934	303	6,056	82	2,518	1,068	8,767	63	950	84	751	1,600	19,042
Totals, 1935	285	5,044	65	1,249	879	5,202	58	689	80	910	1,367	13,094
Totals, 1936	260	4,459	63	1,454	806	4,331	37	574	72	496	1,238	11,314
Totals, 1937	190	2,875	51	925	630	3,041	33	228	48	357	952	7,426
Totals, 1938	225	4,760	55	1,229	699	4,464	39	267	31	316	1,049	11,036
1939.												
P.E. Island.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	99	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	99
Nova Scotia.....	3	21	1	2	32	219	2	15	"	"	38	257
New Brunswick.....	5	193	4	79	31	256	Nil	Nil	3	31	43	559
Quebec.....	124	2,200	37	430	364	1,996	39	675	27	591	591	5,892
Ontario.....	72	974	19	402	239	1,273	7	62	22	123	359	2,834
Manitoba.....	17	172	8	321	81	396	5	41	6	25	117	955
Saskatchewan.....	5	17	8	59	76	365	Nil	Nil	3	4	92	445
Alberta.....	3	6	Nil	Nil	34	232	"	"	Nil	Nil	37	238
British Columbia..	5	246	"	"	13	110	"	"	"	"	18	356
Totals, 1939	234	3,829	77	1,293	874	4,946	53	793	61	774	1,299	11,635