

Special Factors in the Production and Consumption of Manufactured Products

Special Summary of Manufactures.—The data given in Table 4 trace the tendencies in Canadian manufacturing industries as clearly as possible through the latest period of their development. In analysing statistics of production and materials used, it should be borne in mind that, due to the inflation of values from 1914 to the immediate post-war period and the drop in prices of commodities during the depressions following 1921 and 1930, the figures for these periods are not completely comparable. One very important figure, however, which shows the trend of development clearly and uninterruptedly, is concerned with the use of power. The total horse-power employed increased from 1,658,475 in 1917 to 5,045,287 in 1939, an increase of about 204 p.c. in 22 years. In the same period, however, horse-power per wage-earner showed an interrupted trend from 3.06 to 10.82 in 1933 and 9.46 in 1939, indicating a relatively steady and rapidly increasing utilization of electric power in manufacturing production. The significant feature is the increase in both the absolute figures of power employed and the averages per wage-earner during the depression years as compared with 1929, although the large numbers of persons again finding employment since 1933 reduced the averages for the years 1934-37. Other interesting comparisons are the trend of value added by manufacture, per employee, and of average salaries and wages paid since 1929.

Consumption of Manufactured Products.—One of the beneficial results of adopting the same classification for external trade and for production is exhibited in Table 5, where the value of commodities made available for consumption in Canada is derived from these statistics. For example, the value of all manufactured commodities made available in 1939 was \$3,370,000,000, a figure obtained by adding to the value of manufactured products the value of the imports of manufactured and partly manufactured goods and deducting the value of the exports.

In past years there have always been large amounts of manufactured vegetable and iron and steel products available for consumption in Canada with considerable surplus left for export. Since the commencement of the War, however, it has been necessary to export more and more of such goods to the United Kingdom, and while this has been done mainly by increasing production, Government control of consumption at home is growing stronger as the War advances (see p. 354). The statistics for the year 1940—the first full year of war—do not reflect present conditions but when they can be studied and compared with those for later years it will be possible to show the extent of this curtailment of consumption and greater provision for export requirements. In the case of manufactured vegetable products, the figures for 1940 show large excesses of exports over imports for such products as cereal foods (including flour), rubber goods (especially boots and shoes and tires), canned vegetables, confectionery, etc. Excesses of imports were chiefly confined to cocoa, tea, coffee and preserved fruits, in which cases domestic production cannot be substituted and control of consumption will become more rigid.

On balance, Canada has, in the past, imported large quantities of iron and steel products and textiles, in spite of large home production. In both these respects home requirements that have not formerly been met will either have to be provided for from within the Dominion or will go unsupplied. The urgent requirements for munitions of war have already brought about an expansion of the iron and steel and non-ferrous metals industries that will enable Canada to meet most requirements for home consumption in the future as these industries are adjusted for peace-time needs.