

Section 3.—The Manufactures of Ontario, 1945

The gross value of the manufactured products of Ontario in 1945 represented about 48 p.c. of the total for the whole Dominion, while that of Quebec amounted to about 31 p.c. This premier position in manufacturing has been fairly uniformly maintained by Ontario, as the following percentages show: 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. 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, U.S.A. are readily accessible; the wide range of natural resources of forests, minerals, water powers, and agriculture; a large population and excellent water and rail transportation facilities to other parts of the country, have all encouraged industrial development. Other factors have been 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.

Industries producing capital or durable goods, which constitute an important factor in the manufactures of Ontario, were particularly hard hit during the early years of the depression preceding the Second World War. Thus, production was disproportionately curtailed in such important industries as automobiles, electrical equipment, machinery, agricultural implements, primary iron and steel, etc. This resulted in a lowering of the manufacturing production of the whole Province relatively to that of other provinces less affected by these influences. With the recovery since 1933 and the expansion in production resulting from the Second World War these industries in general have made 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 1942 increased the relative value to 50.5 p.c. In 1945, the percentage dropped again to 48.2, thus indicating a relatively greater expansion of war production in other provinces.

Ontario also has the greatest diversification of manufacturing production of any province. Outstanding among the industries in which this Province is pre-eminent are those of automobiles, agricultural implements, starch, bicycles and carpet manufacture which are carried on practically in this Province alone. Other important industries in which Ontario leads, with the percentage which the production of each bears to that of the Dominion total, in 1945, are as follows: abrasives 89, leather tanneries 86, rubber goods 85, miscellaneous non-ferrous metal products 83, cordage, rope and twine 80, soaps and washing compounds 80, woollen yarn 76, salt 73, clay products from imported clay 72, electrical apparatus and supplies 71, primary iron and steel 68, aluminum products 67, toilet preparations 65, coke and gas products 62, iron castings 61, fruit and vegetable preparations 57, flour and feed mills 56, medicinal and pharmaceutical preparations 55, glass and glass products 55, monumental and ornamental stone 54, acids, alkalies and salts 54, hosiery and knitted goods 54, and furniture 53.