

Subsection 1.—Leading Branches of Production, 1941-46

Canada, essentially a producer from basic resources of farm, forest and mine, greatly increased in importance as a manufacturing country within these six years.

With the outbreak of war, transition, tooling, and new equipment of manufacturing industries for war demands was quickly organized and, by 1941, the remarkable gain in the net value of these industries, over 1939, was 70 p.c. A further increase of 27 p.c. took place in 1942. The program was advancing toward peak production and in 1943 gained another 15 p.c. over the preceding year. By 1944, net value of production had reached \$4,015,776,010, which was \$2,073,304,772 over 1940 or a total percentage increase of 106·7. During the years 1945 and 1946, there was a curtailment in production and the figure of net production of the manufacturing industries in 1946 dropped about 14 p.c. below that of 1944.

Agriculture, the basic industry in Canada, was in a favourable position in 1940 as regards grain stocks in storage; also acreages sown were at a high level. The crop of 1941, however, was light due to drought, but the dairying and live-stock branches of the industry had expanded rapidly after the outbreak of war, and only a slight increase in value of production for the agricultural industry as a whole was felt. For 1942, a record yield of grain and high production of hogs, eggs and cheese for overseas markets brought about an outstanding percentage gain of 80·2 over 1941. Net value of agricultural production in 1943 showed a decline of 9·4 p.c. for that year. Production value increased for 1944 by 24·4 p.c. over 1943 and resulted in the greatest output shown in any year under review.

After the War food was still in great demand and Canadian farmers found markets for all they could produce. The net value of agricultural production in 1945 was \$1,269,362,000, and increased to \$1,483,263,000 or by 17 p.c. in 1946.

The forestry industry experienced a pronounced improvement during the war years. The value of production for this industry increased steadily from 1941 to 1946, the increase over the six-year period being approximately \$290,000,000 or 69 p.c.

Mining increased in value of production for the years 1941-42, but during the next three years showed decreases of 7·5 p.c., 4·5 p.c. and 8·9 p.c., respectively, as compared with each preceding year. This industry, however, showed an increase of 2·1 p.c. in 1946.

The value of production for the fisheries and trapping industries recorded the highest percentage gain of the primary industries. Fisheries production in 1941 increased in value by \$14,000,000, or 36 p.c. over the previous year; by 1946 the increase in value from 1941 reached 108 p.c. or a total of \$107,908,162. Trapping production increased in value by \$4,000,000 in 1941 over the preceding year, or by 35 p.c., and gained 105 p.c. from 1941 to 1946.

As would be expected electric power rose steadily during the years 1941-46. From 1941 the net value of production of this industry increased from \$183,000,000 to \$220,000,000 or by 20 p.c.

The total net value of production of the primary industries—agriculture, forestry, fisheries, trapping, mining and electric power—increased by 46 p.c. during the war years 1941-44. In 1945, it decreased by 9 p.c. compared with 1944 but in 1946 increased 16·1 p.c. over the previous year.