Subsection 3.—The Manufactures of Ontario

Despite the great industrial progress made by other provinces, Ontario in 1950 produced over 49 p.c. of the nation's manufactured goods. Many more industrial areas are being created as new industries and self-contained factory expansions of existing industries are going to the smaller towns. A vast increase in steel-ingot capacity is being made possible by developments at Steep Rock Iron Mines and Ontario will play a role commensurate with its position on the Great Lakes waterway which links the wide range of natural resources of forests, minerals and water power with one of the most densely populated regions on the Continent. At Sarnia, huge investments are going into plant for a whole group of new products based on the oil flowing through the Edmonton-Superior pipeline and being shipped across the Great Lakes. Other significant developments are taking place in synthetic rubber and industrial and consumer chemicals. Recent expansions in the electrical industries are not only keyed to defence needs but to the needs of the population which is expanding in Ontario at the rate of 10,000 a month. In addition to the large automotive plants in Ontario, three United States automobile producers opened new plants in the Province in 1950. Expansion has also taken place in many other lines including wood, metal and paper products, textiles, tools, farm implements, building products, food products, leather goods, glass and plastics.

Ontario also has the greatest diversification of manufacturing production of any province. Certain industries, such as the manufacture of motor-vehicles, motor-vehicle parts, agricultural implements, heavy electrical machinery, starch and glucose, machine tools, bicycles and parts, miscellaneous non-ferrous metal products, and carpets, mats and rugs are carried on almost exclusively in Ontario. Of the 40 leading industries in Canada in 1950, a substantial number were dominated by Ontario's share of the total production. These industries, with the percentage that the Ontario production of each bears to the 1950 total for Canada, are: motor-vehicles 98; motor-vehicle parts 98; heavy electrical machinery 96; agricultural implements 94; rubber goods 83; primary iron and steel 76; iron castings 70; miscellaneous paper products 60; sheet metal products 59; brass and copper products 59; printing and bookbinding 58; industrial machinery 57; confectionery 57; paper boxes and bags 56; furniture 52; and flour mills 48.

In the case of the smaller industries, too, Ontario dominates the field. In 1950, Ontario contributed more than 75 p.c. of the Canadian total for the following industries: machine tools 100; bicycles and parts 99; carpets, mats and rugs 96; tobacco processing and packing 94; typewriter supplies 92; miscellaneous nonferrous metal products 91; soaps, washing compounds and cleaning preparations 90; wine 89; breakfast foods 89; inks 88; artificial abrasives 87; leather tanning 86; batteries 85; scientific and professional equipment 84; boilers and plate work 81; automobile accessories, fabric, 81; cordage, rope and twine 80; woollen yarn 79; jewellery and silverware 76; sporting goods 75; toys and games 75; refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and appliances 73; feed mills 71; household, office and store machinery 69; and animal oils and fats 63.