CHAPTER XIV.—MANUFACTURES

CONSPECTUS

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Note.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

This Chapter deals with manufacturing in Canada in three Parts. Part I reviews the manufacturing situation at the end of 1957, emphasizing particularly the fifteen leading industries. Also included is a commentary on the changing pattern of growth in manufacturing which became evident as a result of the recession that began in 1957. Part II provides general statistical analyses including manufacturing statistics from 1917; detailed treatment of 1956 production under various groupings and individual industries; and principal factors in manufacturing production such as capital expenditures and size of establishment. Part III deals with the provincial and local distribution of manufacturing production.

PART I.—REVIEW OF MANUFACTURING

Canada ranks about sixth among the industrial nations of the world. Manufacturing in 1957 contributed 28 p.c. to the gross domestic product at factor cost, which was almost as great a proportion as manufacturing holds in the United States, and about 26 p.c. of the employed population in Canada were working in manufacturing.

Basic historical developments, such as the opening of the West and the magnitude of requirements of all kinds for World Wars I and II, have been followed by recent events of far-reaching significance—the discovery of the major oil pool on the prairies in 1947, the discovery of large-scale deposits of iron and the successful search for uranium have given new dimensions to Canadian thinking and business planning. These factors explain the records of capital expenditures year by year in the postwar period. Yet it is not only rate of growth that is significant. There have been other periods when Canada's population has grown more rapidly and, in many respects, the rate of industrial expansion in the late 1920's was relatively as great as in the postwar years. But the real significance of the latter period is that never before has there been an advance on such a broad industrial front.