

Subsection 4.—The Manufactures of the Prairie Provinces

In the Prairie Provinces the leading industries have traditionally been those based on agricultural resources—grain-growing, cattle-raising and dairying areas. But recently slaughtering and meat packing has emerged as the major industry, followed very closely by petroleum products. The latter industry has made tremendous strides in the mid-west. In 1956 it ranked highest in terms of selling value of factory shipments but dropped back to second place in 1957 and 1958. Of greater significance is the fact that it has increased its proportion of the total manufacturing production of the Prairie Provinces from 8.5 p.c. in 1949 to 15.5 p.c. in 1958. The expansion in manufacturing production in the Prairie Provinces as a unit between 1949 and 1958 has kept pace with that of Canada as a whole; the Prairie Provinces' share of total shipments amounted to approximately 8.5 p.c. in both years.

In the Prairie Provinces the nature of development varies from one province to another. Alberta has moved to the forefront, especially since 1950. There, recent emphasis has been on the manufacture of machinery and equipment for the expanding oil and gas industries. Chemicals, particularly petrochemicals, have made striking gains and now embrace various rayon intermediates and polythene plastics, as well as fertilizers and the manufacture of other inorganic products such as caustic soda and chlorine. Agriculture-based products still rank high in the province, as do such structural materials as steel, concrete products and hydraulic cement. Sizable gains have also been made by food-processing plants.

In Manitoba, the early commercial centre of the mid-west, water power, forest and, more recently, mineral resources have given rise to a diversification of industrial production, although slaughtering and meat packing is still in first place and butter and cheese in third. The province experienced great development in manufacturing production during the past decade but, on a percentage basis, did not keep pace with the other Prairie Provinces. The change has been largely one of emphasis rather than magnitude—the emphasis moving away from the production of food and clothing to the production of goods of mineral origin such as iron and steel, non-metallic mineral products, electrical apparatus and products of petroleum and coal.

Developments in Saskatchewan have continued along more or less traditional lines. The largest gains in shipments have been recorded by the food processing industries and a substantial increase has also been shown by the building materials group, which includes non-metallic mineral products and lumber. However, the largest single gain in employment has been in the refining of oil for local use.

Considering the Prairie Provinces as an economic unit, 4,366 establishments reporting in 1958 furnished employment to 92,525 persons who received \$326,223,056 in salaries

