

Subsection 3.—The Manufactures of Ontario

The southwestern portion of Ontario is one of the world's major industrial areas. Here the proximity of raw materials, cheap hydro-electric power and a strategic location in relation to export markets, not only on this Continent but overseas, have been the decisive factors of development. Most of the manufacturing industries and most of the population of the province are located in this area, which has the inestimable advantage of bordering on the St. Lawrence—Great Lakes waterway system, giving access westward to the heart of the Continent and eastward to the shipping routes of the world. Furthermore, this same waterway is the source of most of Ontario's developed hydro-electric power.

Despite the great industrial progress made by other provinces, Ontario continues to maintain its predominance and in 1960 produced 49.2 p.c. of the nation's manufactured goods. A great increase of steel ingot capacity has been made possible by developments at the Steep Rock iron mines, northwest of Lake Superior. Large investments have gone into the construction of plant and equipment for a whole group of new products based on Alberta oil and gas flowing eastward by pipeline. Significant developments have taken place in synthetic rubber, synthetic textiles and industrial and consumer chemicals. Ontario has continued to gain in such traditional lines as motor vehicles, industrial machinery, and the manufacture of electrical appliances, furniture and other household equipment. The same may be said of other 'hard' goods like business and office machinery, and electrical industrial equipment. In fact, the manufacturers of Ontario now produce almost the complete range of products required by Canadian industry and the Canadian consumer.

Certain industries are carried on practically in this province alone. Of the forty leading industries in Canada in 1960, those dominated by Ontario's share of the total production were: rubber tire and tube manufacturers 99 p.c., motor vehicle manufacturers 98 p.c., motor vehicle parts and accessories manufacturers 97 p.c., manufacturers of electrical industrial equipment 85 p.c., iron and steel mills 79 p.c., manufacturers of major appliances (electrical and non-electrical) 75 p.c., paper converters, *n.e.s.* 68 p.c., fruit and vegetable canners and preservers 67 p.c., miscellaneous machinery and equipment manufacturers 65 p.c., miscellaneous metal fabricating industries 64 p.c., wire and wire products manufacturers 64 p.c., manufacturers of industrial chemicals 59 p.c., printing and book-binding 57 p.c., metal stamping, pressing and coating industry 57 p.c., distilleries 56 p.c., printing and publishing 48 p.c., and miscellaneous food industries 45 p.c. In addition, there are a number of medium-sized industries in which Ontario predominates.

As Ontario is a major producer of durable goods, it experiences wider fluctuations in manufacturing production than provinces producing mainly non-durable or consumer goods. As a result, the small economic downturn of 1954 was more keenly felt by Ontario manufacturers. Factory shipments in that year were 3.9 p.c. lower compared with a drop of 1.3 p.c. for Canada as a whole, and employment was 5.6 p.c. lower compared with 4.5 p.c. for Canada. Conversely, with the improvement during the following three years Ontario in 1957 reported an increase of 29.8 p.c. in factory shipments and 7.6 p.c. in employment over 1954 compared with increases of 26.4 p.c. and 7.2 p.c. for Canada as a whole. The minor depression of 1958 followed the usual pattern; Ontario manufacturers suffered an employment loss of 5.8 p.c. as compared with 5.1 p.c. for Canada as a whole and shipments were down 1.9 and 0.1 p.c., respectively. Again, the upturn in 1959 followed the expected trend and the increase in employment and value of shipments were both higher in Ontario