

contribution of 62 p.c. in 1938. Agriculture is Ontario's principal primary industry, with mining next in importance. The relative importance of these two industries has dropped sharply since 1938, although their dollar values have increased. The value of the construction industry has risen sharply since 1945 and accounted for 12 p.c. of the net value in 1950 compared with 4 p.c. in 1945 and 6 p.c. in 1938.

Prairie Provinces.—The value of commodity production in Manitoba rose from \$135,842,000 in 1938 to \$474,577,000 in 1950 without the general balance of the economy altering greatly over the period. Agriculture remained the Province's principal industry, accounting, in most years, for from 40 p.c. to 50 p.c. of the net value of production. The share of manufacturing usually stood between 35 p.c. and 40 p.c. The Manitoba mining industry, the output of which fell off markedly during the War, has shown some expansion in recent years, but its share of the total is still well below that of 1938. By contrast, value of construction output rose in the post-war period and in 1950 accounted for over 14 p.c. of the provincial total. In 1938 construction contributed only 5 p.c. of the net value of production.

The Saskatchewan economy is greatly dependent on agricultural production. In 1950, for the first time in nine years, agriculture's share of the Province's net value of output fell below 75 p.c. Throughout the period, fluctuations in total value of production and in value of agricultural output paralleled each other closely. Depressed conditions in 1938 were followed by a swiftly rising trend, partly obscured by violent year-to-year fluctuations in value of production. Net value reached record levels in 1948 and 1949 but fell off appreciably in 1950. Although the actual value of Saskatchewan's manufacturing output rose steadily, it still constituted only from 7.5 to 10 p.c. of the net value of production during the post-war years, much the smallest proportion among the older provinces. Mining and construction were the other industries with appreciable values of output.

The Alberta economy has also been largely agrarian until very recently. Before World War II, agriculture provided over 60 p.c. of value of production, and it still contributed nearly 60 p.c. between 1946 and 1948. During 1949 and 1950, however, the share of agriculture dropped substantially as that of mining and construction rose, but it easily remained the Province's principal industry. The value of mineral output increased sharply since 1947, owing principally to the rapid development of the Province's petroleum resources. Throughout the period, manufacturing was Alberta's second industry and contributed between 17 p.c. and 20 p.c. of the net value of production during the post-war years. Its position is being challenged, however, by the fast-growing mining and construction industries.

British Columbia.—Net value of production in British Columbia increased from \$228,573,000 in 1938 to \$971,878,000 in 1950, an advance of more than 300 p.c. Since the Second World War, manufacturing has provided about one-half the aggregate amount. Five primary industries make substantial contributions to the Province's output, these being, in order of 1950 value of production, forestry, mining, agriculture, fisheries and electric power. The economy of British Columbia is therefore one of the most diversified in the nation, and the forestry and construction industries particularly have shown marked expansion during the post-war period. Compared with 1938, the relative importance of the manufacturing and construction industries has risen sharply at the expense of agriculture, mining and electric power.