

or which harness the forces of nature, but it does make communication easy and efficient. It has advantages over the telegraph in the conversation it makes possible, whether the distance be small or great. In an age which appreciates the value of time, and which is notable for its many wonderful inventions, the telephone is entitled to a most distinguished place. In fact, it has come into such general use that the people of to-day are apt to be surprised when reminded of the fact that thirty years ago it was looked upon as a scientific plaything. A very large portion of the town people use the telephone in many ways, and telephone services are fast being installed throughout the rural districts.

With regard to the place of the speaking telephone in modern life, the *Engineering Magazine* says: "Aside from printing and the railroad, it should perhaps rank as the greatest single invention."

Renowned as Brantford justly is on so many other scores, it is certainly a great additional source of pride to have been the home and field of experiment of one of the greatest living inventors in an age so remarkable for perfected mechanical devices.

#### FINANCE.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

It is difficult to present in figures the actual importance of this industrial city. Our system of statistics is not yet so complete as to permit of anything like a perfect presentation.

From the municipal authorities it is found that the assessment is \$8,093,590, and that the population for the present year is 18,510.

City Assets, Dec. 31st, 1903.....	\$1,387,699.45
City Liabilities, Dec. 31st, 1903.....	1,175,103.22
Surplus, Dec. 31st, 1903.....	212,596.23
Debenture Indebtedness, General.....	960,829.50
Debenture Indebtedness, Local Improvement....	197,318.11
Accumulated Sinking Fund.....	268,838.87
Annual Interest Charge, General.....	38,591.32
Annual Interest Charge, Local Improvement....	9,026.67
Cash Receipts, 1903.....	303,765.01
Cash Payments, 1903.....	303,492.78
Annual Sinking Fund Requirement, General....	18,501.08
Annual Sinking Fund Requirement, Local Improvement.....	6,480.65

Some idea of the volume of business is had from the following reports of the Board of Trade:

#### TRAFFIC RETURNS FOR CALENDAR YEAR.

	1900	1901	1902	1903
Freight carried out.....	49,388	55,950	72,123	75,885
Freight brought in.....	148,692	162,280	188,565	213,034
Passengers carried out.....	83,916	98,503	105,530	114,657

#### POST OFFICE RETURNS.

	1901	1902	1903
Revenue from sale of Postage Stamps.....	\$29,903.00	\$32,152.00	\$34,415.00
Money Orders Issued.....	33,981.07	42,411.52	51,382.00
Money Orders Paid.....	225,863.67	231,473.41	252,804.00
Postal Notes Issued.....	2,862.89	3,122.44	4,465.00
Postal Notes Paid.....	10,671.02	11,472.27	12,903.00

It will be noticed that in every item that can show progress there is a decided increase in the figures of each succeeding year.

The best indication from statistics of Brantford's place among Canadian cities is found in the amount of manufactured exports. The last report shows the city to be third on the list, Montreal and Toronto alone of Canadian cities surpassing Brantford.

#### VARIED INDUSTRIES.

It is impossible to give here in detail all the manufactures and products shipped from Brantford. A few of the most important manufactures are agricultural implements, engines, stoves, malleable iron, ploughs, wagons and carriages, binder twine, woolens, biscuits, windmills and machinery of all sorts.

The following is a list of the leading firms, with the nature of their manufactures:

#### MANUFACTURERS IN THE CITY OF BRANTFORD.

Adams Wagon Works Co.—Wagons.  
 Blacker Brick Co.—Bricks.  
 Brantford Hosiery Co., Limited.  
 Brantford Screw Co.  
 Bixel Brewing and Malting Co.—Lager Beer.  
 Brantford Box Co.—Boxes.  
 Brantford Carriage Co.—Carriages.  
 Brantford Stoneware Co.—Stoneware.  
 Brantford Starch Manufacturing Co.—Starch.  
 Buck Stove Co., Limited, The William—Stoves and Furnaces.  
 Brantford Cordage Co.—Binder Twine.  
 Cockshutt Plow Co.—Agricultural Implements.  
 Fair, T. J. & Co.—Cigars.  
 Farmers' Binder Twine Co.—Binder Twine.  
 Fox Bros., Pork Packers.  
 Gardner, H. B.—Cigars.  
 Goold, Shapley & Muir Co.—Windmills, Grinders, Bee-Keepers' Supplies, etc.  
 Halloran, M. K.—Cigars.  
 Ham & Nott Co.—Spring Mattresses, Refrigerators, etc.  
 Ker & Goodwin.—Machinists.