



# Welland Industrial Commissioner's Report for the Year 1916

To the Council and the Board of Trade of the Town of Welland.

Gentlemen:

While you are all aware that the year 1916 has been a year of unexampled industrial activity, yet I am sure none of you have even guessed approximately how far our industries have gone in leaving old records behind.

Let me indicate briefly a few salient features of a year that was in all respects phenomenal. With the kind co-operation of representatives of twenty-four industries in Welland and in the Welland Industrial area I am able to quote statistics relating to manufactures showing gains of almost incredible proportions.

## NEARLY TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE FACTORIES

Take, for instance, the total value of our manufactured product. This table is illuminating:—

1906.....	\$ 150,000	1915.....	\$13,285,495
1912.....	6,500,000	1916.....	19,375,115

This is certainly a growth beyond the expectations of anyone, and a ratio of increase that, I think, has not been paralleled in this country.

A very natural assumption would be that this increase represents munition business, and yet the munitions output does not exceed five and a half millions of the total.

## PAY ROLLS OVER THREE AND A HALF MILLION

That over three and a half million dollars went out last year in the pay rolls of our industries is a somewhat surprising discovery, and yet it is a fact. A comparative table here, too, will be of interest.

Total Industrial pay rolls for—

1906.....	\$ 50,000	1915.....	\$2,117,618
1912.....	1,300,000	1916.....	3,610,336

Welland's army of industrial workers increased in 1916 by 1,015, but of this increase, scarcely more than half belongs to the industries making munitions.

## NEARLY 5,000 INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

This table shows the rapid climb in numbers of our battalions of industrial employees:—

1906.....	100	1915.....	3,875
1912.....	3,000	1916.....	4,890

## MILLION AND A HALF SPENT ON ENLARGEMENT

Welland manufacturers spent in new buildings last year \$361,808, and in new machinery appliances and equipment \$1,125,734.

## WELLAND, AS A PART OF CANADA'S INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY

A fair indication of the industrial and commercial importance of a manufacturing centre is revealed in the customs statistics. The returns from the Welland office last year totalled \$824,077. This was almost as much as was shown by Brantford, the fifth city of the province, three times as much as the city of Brockville, twice as much as the city of Guelph, two and a half times as much as the city of Stratford, and a shade more than the border city of Niagara Falls.

For every thousand dollars collected in the Dominion of Canada last year in customs duties five

dollars was contributed through the port of Welland.

The Monetary Times estimates the total production of all Canadian factories in 1916 at two billion dollars. On that estimate Welland produced one per cent. of Canada's total industrial production. Viewed in another light:—Our industrial production in 1916 was 32 per cent. of Canada's total exports of manufactures in 1914.

The number of industrial employees in Canada as shown by the census of 1916 is 511,850, of which number those in Welland constitute almost one per cent. of the total.

## THE HOUSING PROBLEM

In my report of a year ago I pointed out as emphatically as I could the need of more houses in Welland. There was at that time a very serious shortage. But however serious it was a year ago, it is much more so now. The industrial workers increased by over one thousand in the year, and yet new houses built in Welland last year numbered only 78.

The present situation is acute. One employer has been preparing plans to adapt a building for sleeping quarters to accommodate fifty employees.

There is no habitable building in Welland that is unoccupied, and if two hundred houses were vacated to-morrow morning they would be occupied by nightfall.

Last year the Council and the Board of Trade drew public attention to the necessity of housebuilding, and the campaign, while not as productive as hoped, still was instrumental in having many undertake the building of homes. The houses built were almost double those of 1915.

## THE DAY OF PEACE

After the war what? The Department of Trade and Commerce has been urging that the people take steps now to meet the situation of that day. While Welland has made a tremendous contribution toward allied success in the war by supplying munitions, it is some insurance for the future to know that we are turning out, outside of war products, manufactures unrelated to the war or but indirectly related to it in such volume as to mean a continuation of a large and substantial portion of our business after the war is over. It is obvious that the more provision that can be made for normal activities after the war, the better it will be for our community and the country. That we are well fortified for the inevitable dislocation that must follow peace is evident. Our industries are in strong positions financially. The people generally are in a better position than ever before. Each Canadian at the beginning of the war had \$55.00 in the savings bank, now he has \$92.95—which makes him the wealthiest man in the world.

## THE CITY OF WELLAND

My next report, if I should make one, will be to the Mayor and council of the city of Welland, for the incorporating act has now been passed, and I hope it will be presented in the era of peace of which I have just spoken, a peace built to some extent at least on the patriotism and sacrifice of men of Welland on the frontier of civilization, of those at home who have spared loved ones and toiled on, and of our workers who have produced the iron sinews of war.

LOUIS BLAKE DUFF,

Industrial Commissioner.

Welland, 5th April, 1917.