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## THE MANUFACTURES OF CANADA.

Read before the Canadian Manufacturers Association by Doctor Archibald Blue, Chief Officer of the Census and Statistics of Canada, September 25, 1912.

— 8 pp. 800. —

In preparing the schedule for the census of manufactures twelve years ago I had the advantage of a conference with the officers of the Manufacturers Association. Some points of difference arose, but I believe that in every instance agreement was reached as to terms and their meanings, and I have not heard of a case where business men could not answer a question because they failed to understand it, or at least to understand the meaning of it as it was explained for census purposes.

In the use of the term "capital", for example, there is room for latitude, and some men will tell us that no safer definition can be given than one's reputation or good name—which is not measureable in figures. But the instructions under which the census was taken aimed at making the meaning of the term uniform and definite; and so the capital employed in an industry was divided under the two heads of (1) value of land, buildings and plant occupied by the factory, and (2) the amount of working capital employed, which might include money borrowed for carrying on the factory operations.

This was the definition printed on the schedule, and every enumerator was required to leave a copy of it with every owner or manager of a manufacturing concern. It was the duty of the enumerator to assist the owner or manager to answer all the questions of the schedule for the census year, or leave it to be filled up at a date to be mentioned in the signed notice at the foot of the schedule, when he would call for and receive it duly made out. Or, as an alternative plan, the enumerator was advised to fill the schedule for each factory himself on the information given him by the owner or manager, unless time might be gained by arranging to have the entries made as provided in the notice.

Every schedule has passed through the hands of the owner or manager of every factory, of the enumerator who had been instructed in the making of records, of the commissioner of the census who examined the work of every enumerator in his district, and finally of the experienced clerks of the Census Office who have examined and edited the records for compilation; and at every stage there was the opportunity of getting back to the man who gave the original information for the correction of possible errors. Theorists and professors may say that the work was not perfect. They may say that there was a lack of instructions or a capacity to understand them. But we have been dealing with business men, who are practical, and in my judgment the facts and information they have given are safer to follow than the opinions of men who follow a vision or a theory.—And now to the business.

Every factory in operation during the whole or part of the census year, which had given employment during any part of the year to five or more persons, including the owner or manager, was required to make a full report, and all answers, the instructions said, should agree with the book of entries or records of the factory. But this limitation to factories employing five or more persons, it was said, would not apply to brick and tile works, butter and cheese factories