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A DEPARTMENT OF MANUFACTURES

The administration of public affairs of Canada is divided into the following thirteen departments: Finance, Justice, Public Works, Railways and Canals, Militia and Defence, Customs, Agriculture, Post Office, Marine and Fisheries, Inland Revenue, Interior, Indian Affairs, and Department of State. By a Bill which was passed in 1890, the Geological Survey, which had been a branch of the Department of the Interior, was made a separate Department, under a deputy head. Provision has been made by legislation for the amalgamation of the Departments of Customs and Inland Revenue, the new Department to be known as that of Trade and Commerce, presided over by a minister, while in the place of the present Ministers of Customs and Inland Revenue, two comptrollers will be appointed. This arrangement has not yet been carried into effect.

Whether any of these departments might be abolished or not, there is a passing need for a department of the Government which should be devoted to the interests of manufacturers. All of the general interests of the country are well looked after and attended to by appropriate departments, and many interests are in charge of departments specially devoted to them, none of which are of any greater importance than those of manufacturers, and yet no branch of the Government is charged with looking after these interests. There should be a Department of Manufactures, whose duty it should be to furnish to

the Government and to the country all important information in regard to manufactures, just as the Department of Agriculture is now charged with furnishing information in regard to their interest. The manufacturing interests of Canada engage the services and attention of a very large per cent. of the whole working population, and exact and comprehensive information regarding them is of as much importance to those engaged in them, and to the whole country, as is such knowledge of the conditions of agricultural industries. Apart from the general value of such information to the manufacturers, and to all other interests, it would possess special value to the Government in enabling them, through this intelligence, to better manage the affairs of State. The only authoritative source from which knowledge of this description can now be derived is from the census reports, and, in the light of the census returns now being presented to the country, such information as it is likely to give regarding our manufacturing industries cannot be deemed very reliable.

There seems to be some lamentable and long-continued blundering in the statistical department of the Government regarding the classification of the exports of the country, the most glaring mistakes being observable in not recording as "manufactures" many articles which should certainly be denominated under that head. According to the Trade and Navigation returns, the export trade of the produce of Canada last year was valued at \$85,257,586, of which \$5,741,184 was classified as "manufactures," and, according to this classification, our export of manufactures amounted to but little more than six per cent. of the total. No doubt all the items in this classification were placed where they belonged, but there were a great many other items credited to other industries which appeared there at the expense of manufactures. Classified as "produce of the mine," we find that the exports for that year included copper, ground mica and salt. These are manufactures quite as much as pig iron. The "produce of the fisheries" included canned mackerel, canned herring, smoked herring, preserved fish, canned oysters, canned lobsters, canned salmon, cod oil, and furs and skins. the produce of fish and marine animals This does not include the process of drying, salting and pickling of fish, the preparation and packing of sounds and tongues, the packing of fresh oysters, etc., all of which operations are closely allied to "manufactures." The canning of fish, lobsters, oysters, etc., is quite as much a manufacturing industry as the preparation of grindstones and leather: the preparation of cod oil for medicinal purposes is a manufacturing process entirely apart from catching the fish; and the curing of furs and skins of marine animals is certainly a manufacturing industry. The "produce of the forest" included potash, pearlash, ships' knees, paling, pickets, planks, boards, and all sawn lumber, shingles, etc. A very large proportion of the value of these items was given to them because of the processes of manufacture expended upon them. "Animals and their produce" included butter, cheese, dressed furs, grease, lard, bacon, pork, beef, canned and preserved meats, etc. These articles are all the product of manufacturing processes. The products of animals from which these articles are made would be valueless without the manufacturing processes through which they pass. Exports of "agricultural products" included dried apples, canned berries, fruits and vegetables; maple sugar, barley malt, flour, etc.