

of the buildings, with their scriptural mottoes of good cheer painted on the wooden wall. But once inside how bright and comfortable everything appears, and we can almost comprehend the fascination for their work that will bring some of the best Canadian and American doctors and nurses to give a few best years of their lives to the work of caring for these care-worn toilers of the deep. We are shown over the building and are delighted to find it wonderfully well equipped, and able to bear comparison with many city hospitals.

After a night spent tied up at the wharf on account of the thick fog, we experience a day of "dirty weather," but having become safely established on our "sea legs" we continue to enjoy the trip though we are crossing the rather tempestuous Strait of Belle Isle. Soon we approach the Isle itself, for it is here we are to pick up some twenty-five fishermen who have had their five schooners with all the season's catch of fish crushed by a giant berg. The captain approaches very slowly and

cautiously to this rocky island. It is a time of intense excitement as we all peer out through the enveloping fog, anxious to catch a glimpse of the rocky coast. The whistle sounds its ear-splitting blast, and through the megaphone goes the shout, "Ahoy! Ahoy!" At last faintly on the distance comes the answering "Ahoy!" The mist suddenly rises and we find our ship close to shore.

On again quickly through the open sea, more slowly through the field ice until the Labrador coast is sighted. Unable to make Battle Harbour we anchor some half mile out, and manage to take our places in the life-boat at the exact moment when a rising wave brings it level with the companion gangway. We row round the berg which has blocked the passage of the steamer and make our way into the harbour.

Here again is one of the Mission Hospitals, which we regret not having time to inspect, for we must say farewell to those of our fellow-travellers whose work has brought them to this bleak spot. Here

we lose our naturalist who will study the adaptability of the country for fox and reindeer farming, and who confidently expects to subsist during the winter chiefly on blubber and sealskin boots, not to mention periwinkles, for which he has an amazing appetite. Here, too, we leave our mining expert, our botanist, and his companion, the entomologist, and our author.

After a short run to a nearby whaling station, where we anchor, we see a monster sperm whale being hauled up on the slip of the factory. We are quite satisfied with gazing at his huge carcass through the glasses, and enjoying the perfume at a distance.

Here we regretfully see our good ship "Prospero" headed for her home port, where she finally lands us, a happy and sun-burnt company. Just ten days out at sea, and what a fund of delightful experiences is ours, compared to which an ordinary trans-Atlantic voyage would be extremely monotonous.

## Canada's Most Profitable Manufacturing Industry

*First Prize Essay of Supreme Interest to Master and Mechanic*

By R. C. READE

SOME time ago the CANADIAN COURIER offered a prize for the best thousand-word essay on this subject, and the following article ranked first. Every capitalist will be interested in knowing what industry in Canada is most profitable to him and to the country as a whole. Every mechanic will be equally interested in knowing what industry offers him the best rewards. Every Canadian will be glad to know what industry means most to the country, to the capitalist and to the mechanic.

The two best writers in the competition came to the same conclusion. That class of factories and shops producing what are known as "Foundry and

Machine Products" is Canada's leading industry. While there are twice as many flour mills in the Dominion as foundries and machine shops, the capital of the latter is twice as great, the product sells for more dollars and the number of employees is four times as large.

The article is interesting from another point of view. There is a political controversy at Ottawa as to whether Canadians are skilful enough to build ships. If our leading industry is "Foundries and Machine Shop Products," then it would seem that Canada is already able to do the finest work in iron, steel and brass that can be demanded of the twentieth century mechanic.—

THE Bulletin of Manufactures, compiled from the Canadian Census reports of 1911, contains a list of 210 separate and distinct industries. This is the motley host of contestants which solicit our suffrages for the Blue Ribbon of manufacturing excellence.

The testimony that these industrial entities bring forward as to their profitableness consists of statistical information under four heads. For each industry there is recorded the number of "establishments," that is, the various places of manufacture; the number of employees and the total of their earnings; the value of the raw material and the value of the finished product.

From each of these items important inferences can be made. The number of establishments is an index of the distribution of an industry. A manufacture brings more profit to the nation if it develops a great many parts of the country simultaneously. The amount of capital discloses the financial interests at stake. It is an interrogation mark in respect of investors' profits. The ratio of the reward to capital is one criterion of profitableness.

The number of employees and their average earnings is the acid test of labour's profit. The more numerous the participants in this distribution of wages, and the higher their average share, the more profitable the industry to the nation as a whole.

The third and fourth statistical items, the value of raw materials and finished products, illustrate the quantitative importance of an industry. A valuable process of manufacture must be a large one, employing a great number of persons and turning out finished products that greatly increase the wealth of the country. Last of all, the deduction of the cost of raw materials, together with the amount of wages from the value of the finished product, gives the gross earnings of an industry. This, in spite of the lack of information as to operating expenses, will probably furnish a sufficiently close indication of the respective profitableness of various industries from the point of view of capital.

It is now possible to form a composite picture of industrial perfection. The most perfect, that is, the most profitable manufacturing industry, will be the one which is the most widely distributed; which employs the largest number of wage-earners, directly or indirectly, and pays them the highest average wage; which uses the greatest amount of raw material of Canadian origin, adds to it the greatest value in the course of manufacture and yields the highest return upon capital invested. It is in short the industry which is the most profitable from the point of view of the investor or capitalist, of the industrial worker and of Canada as a nation, which is a synthesis of these two classes. The advantage of the nation is as much a question of the

future as of the present. On the whole the industry of more progressive and permanent economic utility is the more profitable.

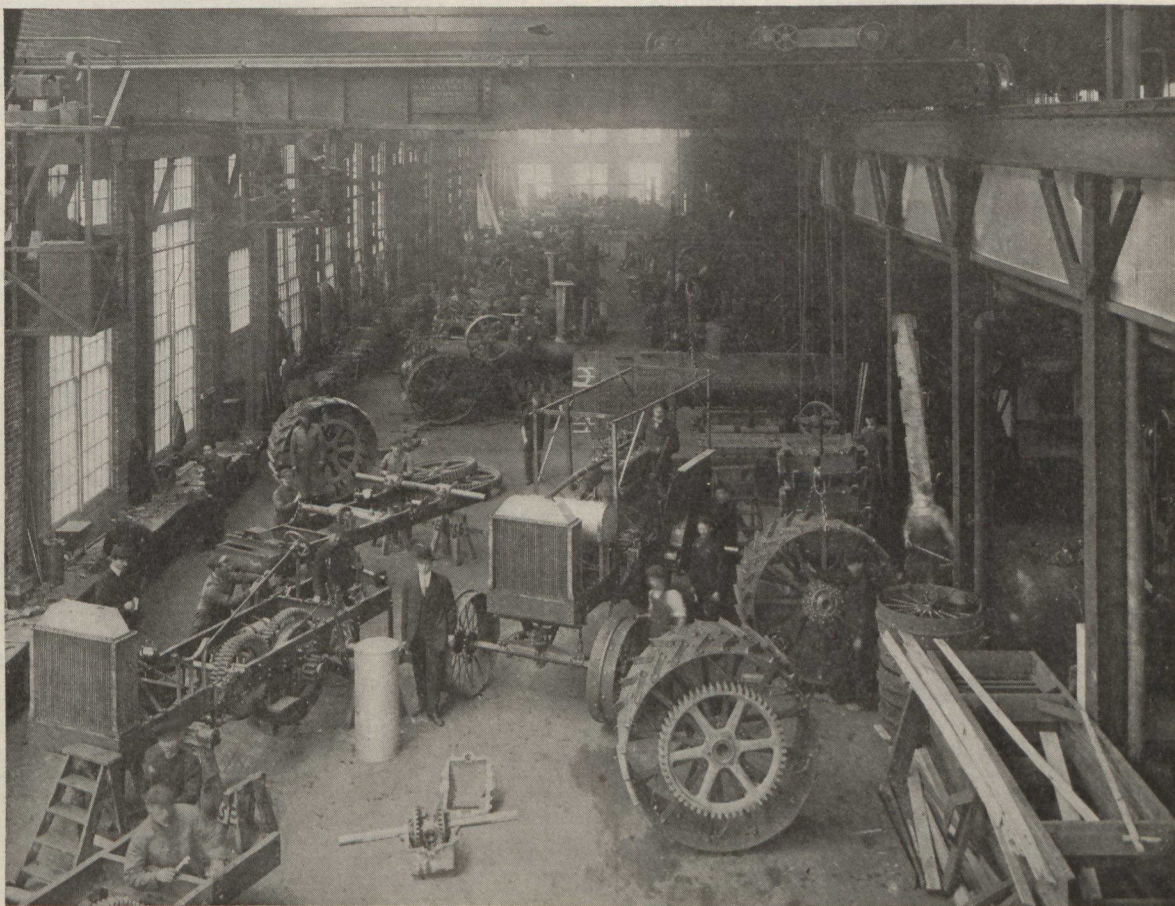
FOLLOWING these principles of comparison, industry after industry of the original two hundred and ten is eliminated until there remain only three—three which stand out in thews and bulk like a British Columbia pine transplanted to a Niagara peach orchard. These are the giants beside which all the rest of the industrial forest is mere jungle undergrowth. These three are solemnly entitled in the before-mentioned Bulletin of Manufactures as "Log Products," "Flour and Grist Mill Products," and "Foundry and Machine Products." In the following table of comparative statistics they are Nos.

One, Two and Three respectively:

| Distribution.        | Capital.      | No. of Employees. | Av. Wage. | New Wealth.  |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. 3,499 factories.. | \$146,000,000 | 76,424            | \$339     | \$49,000,000 |
| 2. 1,141 factories.. | 43,000,000    | 6,791             | 553       | 25,000,000   |
| 3. 514 factories..   | 53,000,000    | 26,835            | 549       | 27,000,000   |

No. 1 is first in regard to distribution, to amount of capital, to new wealth created out of raw materials and in regard to the number of wage-earners. It is lowest in average wage and in ratio of earnings to capital. It is therefore the least profitable of the three industries both to capital and labour. It is of immense present importance to the nation by reason of the great amount of new wealth it creates out of our timber resources, but this "Log Products" industry is dwindling compared with the

### A PICTURE WHICH TELLS THE STORY



Here is a Typical Machine Shop, One of Over Five Hundred Which Make Up "Canada's Greatest Manufacturing Industry," Employing More Than 6,500 Men, Paying Nearly Ten Million Dollars in Salaries and Wages, Earning Dividends on Thirty-six Million Dollars of Capital, and Producing Annually Wares to the Value of Thirty Million Dollars. Further, it is an Industry With a Future.