

WELLAND

THE accompanying extracts taken from the last annual report of Louis Blake Duff, Industrial Commissioner, are evidences of the important part Welland has come to play, and will continue to play, in the realm of manufacturing in this country. Contiguous to cheap power, an adequate labor supply and excellent rail and water transportation facilities, this thriving Ontario city offers unusually fine advantages to capital and manufacturing enterprises.

To the Council and the Board of Trade of the City of Welland:

GENTLEMEN,—

My report for the year 1918, which I have the pleasure and honor here to present, covers a year that marked the close of the great war and the beginning of peace, the closing of an old era and the opening of a new one.

PAY ROLLS EXCEED SIX MILLION

Into the pay envelopes of Welland's industrial workers there was placed last year \$6,466,221, about three times the amount of 1915. The following is a comparative table:—

1906	\$ 50,000
1912	1,300,000
1915	2,117,618
1916	3,610,336
1917	5,569,190
1918	6,466,221

OUR MANUFACTURED PRODUCT VALUED AT \$35,400,340

The value of Welland's manufactured product in 1918 shows that we have passed through another year of really noteworthy expansion. The adage, that "every year in Welland is a record year—until the next one arrives," has again proven true. No better index of the progress of the city can be given than the following table showing the value of our manufactured product in recent years:—

1906	\$ 150,000
1912	6,500,000
1915	13,285,495
1916	19,375,115
1917	28,642,390
1918	35,400,340

The output of Welland's factories in 1918 is more than 10 per cent. of Canada's total exports in 1913, of the mines, forests, factories, fisheries and farms. Canada's factory exports in 1913 totalled \$43,692,708, so that Welland in 1918 manufactured goods very near to the value of the National factory export of five years ago.

WELLAND AGAIN LEADS ALL ONTARIO CITIES IN POPULATION GROWTH

The assessment roll for 1918 shows Welland to have a population of 9,876, an increase of 1,051 over the previous year, and making an actual population, including the industrial section in Crowland which adjoins, of at least 12,500.

The following table shows how Welland has grown in population in the past fifteen years:—

Year.	Population.	Gain.
1905	1,795	
1906	1,886	91
1907	3,274	1,388
1908	3,958	684
1909	4,448	490
1910	4,681	233
1911	5,128	447
1912	5,414	286
1913	6,244	830
1914	7,208	964
1915	7,243	35
1916	7,905	662
1917	8,823	920
1918	9,876	1,051

Welland had a gain in population last year of 10.6 per cent., a record that was approached by only one other Ontario city, and, with this one exception, over double the percentage gain of any other Ontario city. This is the second year in succession that Welland has been in the position as leader in

population growth. In point of numerical gain Welland was exceeded by only six of the twenty-one cities of the province.

ASSESSMENT GROWS NEARLY A MILLION

The total assessment as revealed in the 1918 roll is \$7,638,110, an increase of nearly a million dollars over the previous year. For the past twelve years we have increased our assessment on an average of over half a million dollars each year. The gains from year to year have been as follows:—

1907	\$ 963,950
1908	327,065
1909	176,240
1910	443,954
1911	197,820
1912	421,651
1913	679,228
1914	1,267,162
1915	398,518
1916	270,540
1917	544,325
1918	879,120

MUNICIPAL FINANCES

It is gratifying to note the increases in municipal revenues. The Financial Statement for 1918 shows an improvement under every head. From that statement the following comparisons are selected:—

	1917.	1918.
Building Permits	\$ 135.50	\$ 222.00
Fines	3,118.75	13,865.00
License	1,857.75	2,005.60
Market	917.25	956.00
Taxes—		
Roll of 1916	16,922.47	
Roll of 1917		18,196.24
Roll of 1917	148,470.86	
Roll of 1918		169,570.91
Taxes, arrears	1,350.05	5,505.94
Taxes, dog	118.00	202.00

THE OUTLOOK

The year 1919 is not likely to see the establishment of many new industries, but the succeeding year should find the youngest city in the province in her full stride again. The chief factor to bring this about will be the completion of the Chippawa-Queenston hydro-electric development scheme, begun in 1914 and now well under way. This public undertaking, estimated to cost \$25,000,000, will provide 300,000 h.p. Welland's proximity to the development, its present connection with the Hydro-Electric Power System by a half million dollar power line, and its unrivalled lake and rail facilities, will undoubtedly result in the continued building up of this important industrial city.

The opening year has the following municipal building projects in contemplation:—A Fire Hall, a Public School, a New Hospital Wing, a Carnegie Library, and a Technical School.

THE DESTINY OF WELLAND

The figures herein presented will be, I believe, a source of pride to every citizen of Welland. Certainly the record cannot be duplicated. I can do no better in conclusion than to repeat the observation of a year ago; that the compilation of our industrial statistics lends a new weight each year to the common prophecy that the City of Welland is destined to be one of the first manufacturing centres of Ontario, and the zone of the Welland Ship Canal, the workshop of the Dominion.

Welland had a splendid achievement in peace, and a splendid achievement in war. Peace brings the opportunity for a new and greater success.

LOUIS BLAKE DUFF,

Industrial Commissioner.

Welland, January 31, 1919.