

WELLS BUSINESS REVIEW

This Page Devoted Every Week to the Interests of Washington Industrial, Building and Business Firms



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FACTORY BOOM ON IN DISTRICT

Gain Disperses Notion That Industrial Plants Are Barred.

To a great many people outside of Washington no such phrase as "Manufactures in the District of Columbia" really exists. It is surprising, according to the Washington Chamber of Commerce, how many people are fully convinced that manufactures have no place in Washington. Indeed, quoting the chamber, we frequently meet people who tell us they understand that manufacturing plants are forbidden in the District of Columbia by law. Such persons would be greatly surprised if they could see the preliminary bulletin recently issued by the United States Census Bureau upon this subject.

Production Values Huge Gain.
This bulletin not only tabulates a substantial number of manufacturing establishments for the year 1919, but shows a rapid growth since 1914, when the former census of manufactures was taken. The value of manufactured products in the District in 1914 was \$28,904,000, and in 1919, \$67,936,000, an increase of 135 per cent. Of course, much of this increase is due to increased cost of manufactured articles, but when the number of establishments, persons engaged in manufactures, capital, and wages paid are considered it is apparent that there has been considerably greater production in 1919 than in the former year.

Corporations Also Gain.
In 1914 there were 513 establishments as against 592 in 1919, an increase of 15.4 per cent. The number engaged in manufactures in 1914 was 11,455, as against 14,309 in 1919, an increase of 24.9 per cent. The capital employed in 1914 was \$40,729,000, as against \$2,906,000, an increase of 54.2 per cent. The amount paid for services in 1914 was \$8,622,000, as against \$19,132,000 in 1919, an increase of 121.9 per cent. The cost of materials used in 1914 was \$12,074,000 and in 1919, \$31,007,000, an increase of 155.8 per cent.

The census figures do not include the steam laundries in the District, of which there were eighteen in 1914 and twenty-one in 1919. The number of persons employed in this industry was 1,247 in 1914 and 2,295 in 1919, an increase of 70.4 per cent. The capital increased from \$971,328 in 1914 to \$1,374,200 in 1919, or 41.5 per cent. The amount paid for services increased from \$562,358 in 1914 to \$1,354,948 in 1919, or 142.5 per cent. The cost of materials increased from \$181,876 in 1914 to \$451,036 in 1919, or 144.5 per cent. The amount received for work done in steam laundries increased from \$1,023,475 in 1914 to \$2,559,210 in 1919, or 150.1 per cent.

In considering the industries and manufacturing establishments in the District of Columbia, it must be remembered that the Federal government is carrying on extensive operations similar to those in manufacturing establishments conducted under private ownership. These operations include the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Government Printing Office, the Naval and Army Ordnance and a number of smaller establishments.

U. S. Establishments Excluded.
The figures for these government-owned establishments are not included in the statement given above, and the figures for 1919 are not comparable in the census for 1914, however, there were eleven of these establishments, having 11,639 persons engaged in the various industries, a capital of \$39,862,067, amount paid for services of \$1,942,755, and cost of materials \$5,924,254. Their products are not manufactured for sale, no value of products is shown.

There is no doubt that there has been a large increase in these operations since 1914. The number of establishments may not have materially increased, but there has been a large increase in the employment, capital, amount paid for services, cost of materials, and volume of products.

It may be seen, therefore, that while the industries of the District of Columbia are not comparable in extent with any of the great manufacturing centers, yet the importance of these industries is by no means negligible. That a city of the size of Washington must have a certain amount of industries is inevitable, and as our city grows from this time on, it will almost assuredly happen that the industrial growth will more than keep pace with the increase in population.

This result does not mean that we are to be an industrial community, or that the wonderful beauty of the city is to be marred by unsightly smoke stacks and factory buildings. There is abundant space for such as come outside the city proper. This is an element in the development of our city which must more and more engage the serious attention of our Chamber of Commerce.

LARGE QUANTITY OF COPPER NEEDED IN GERMANY.

According to the Wall Street Journal, an engineer who has recently returned from abroad reports that Germany needs 400,000,000 pounds of copper. It is stated that wire for electrical transmission, and the loss in power, due to the greater resistance of aluminum, has added substantially to the cost of coal used in running the dynamos. It is also estimated that France and Italy will need millions of pounds of copper in the development of the hydro-electric power plants which are now contemplated in order to offset the lack of coal resources.

CONDENSED MILK MARKET STILL INACTIVE.

The Bureau of Markets reports that the condensed and evaporated milk business continues to be stagnant and numerous factories were compelled to close in October because of inability to move stock profitably under present conditions. Stocks of preserved milk on hand October 1st were more than 100 per cent greater than at the same date last year. Exports of condensed and evaporated milk in September this year amounted to about 21,000,000 pounds, compared with 42,000,000 pounds in September a year ago.

DRY GOODS.

A further widening of the price readjustment in dry goods had been foreshadowed, and no surprise was occasioned by last week's continued reductions in jobbing centers throughout the country. With the revisions reaching unusual proportions in various instances, distribution is being moderately stimulated, and a broader movement in printed cottons and many of the colored cottons appears to be indicated. The unsettled condition of the raw material market, however, prevents any large business, and a steady spread of idleness in textile manufacturing channels has resulted from the lack of sizable orders. Not only are many of the smaller men's wear mills closed, but several of the largest plants are reported to be turning out less than a third of capacity product, and other divisions of the industry give similar evidence of the changed conditions prevailing. A quotation of 9 1/2 cents for print cloths, which contrasts with one of 25 cents last spring, is a conspicuous illustration of the extent of the price reaction.

POWER ALCOHOL.

Reports to the Department of Commerce state that detailed research is shortly to be undertaken in India, with a view to determining the practicability of producing power alcohol on a commercial basis. Rice straw and other cheap materials are said to be available in abundance and will be used for the purpose of the investigation. Should these experiments in India prove successful, they will be followed by similar undertakings in various other parts of the British Empire.

LEADER OF BUSINESSMEN IS ALSO BANK PRESIDENT



COL. ROBERT N. HARPER.
President of the District National Bank of the Washington Chamber of Commerce, and the District of Columbia Bankers' Association.

MANUFACTURES IN WASHINGTON

	Census	1914	1919	Per cent increase.
Number of establishments.....	1919	513	592	15.4
Persons engaged in manufactures....	14,309	11,455	24,9	21.9
Proprietors and firm members.....	524	589	11.1	11.1
Salaried employees.....	3,208	1,991	61.1	19.1
Wage earners (average number)....	10,577	8,584	24.1	24.1
Primary horsepower.....	23,993	24,593	2.5	2.5
Capital.....	\$62,906,000	\$40,729,000	54.2	121.9
Services.....	15,132,000	8,622,000	121.9	134.1
Salaries.....	5,960,000	2,546,000	116.8	156.8
Wages.....	13,172,000	6,076,000	116.8	135.0
Materials.....	21,007,000	12,074,000	156.8	135.0
Value of products.....	67,936,000	28,904,000	135.0	119.4
Value added by manufacture.....	26,929,000	16,530,000	119.4	

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WASHINGTON'S FIRMS BUSY

Here Are Glimpses of Some of Their Activities.

GILL'S PAINT STORE
Foremost in the ranks of Washington paint establishments is that owned and operated by George R. Gill, situated at 640-642 Pennsylvania avenue southeast. This store is a model structure and one of the finest of its kind in the city.

Mr. Gill has been in the paint and oil business for twenty-five years during which time he has made a host of friends, both in Washington and in the surrounding community, by his untiring efforts to give satisfactory service regardless of the amount of business involved. "Service and Service Always" is a mighty good motto to follow, contends Mr. Gill, and points to his own achievements to bear out the statement.

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Among the most well-known brands of paints, varnishes and oils for all indoor and outdoor uses can be found Buffalo Paint; Cobolite Varnish and Matton's flat wall finish. Occupying part of the Gill store is the only classified post office station in the southeast section, with hours from 8:00 a. m. until 6:00 p. m., which adds to the popularity enjoyed by the house.

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NEW EXPORT CORPORATION.
It has been announced from New Orleans that the Federal Foreign Finance Corporation, organized recently at a meeting of 100 prominent Southern bankers, will be ready for business by January 1, 1921. The corporation was organized with an authorized capital of \$5,000,000 which it is estimated will give it a financing power of at least \$75,000,000. The object of the corporation will be to assist producers of the South in marketing their products in foreign countries. Special attention will be paid to