

Recent Industrial Development

Since 1900 there has been a continuous industrial growth in Iowa. In 1929 Iowa stood twentieth among the states in the value added by its manufacturing plants, but by 1947 it had fallen to twenty-sixth place according to the federal census of manufactures conducted in that year. Genuine concern was expressed because the rate of increase had not kept up with the national average.

Since the end of World War II an intensified drive has been made to reverse this trend. Led by the Iowa Development Commission, 62 communities by 1956 had definite industrial development programs with plans drawn up, lands set aside, and commissions established to make each community the most attractive location possible for new industrial plants. The visual evidence of their success is constantly at hand as one travels through the state and sees modern manufacturing structures on sites which but a short time before were cornfields.

Lest this evidence should be discounted as unscientific, one should consider a study of the 1947 and 1953 federal censuses of manufactures made by Clark C. Bloom and A. A. Montgomery of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the

State University of Iowa. They discovered that although the rate of increase in Iowa's manufacturing employment between 1947 and 1953 was slightly under the national average, the value added by the state's manufactures accelerated considerably faster than the rate for the entire country — an increase of 176 per cent for Iowa as against 163 per cent for the nation. In actual figures the value added by manufactures in Iowa rose from \$671,100,000 in 1947 to \$1,179,513,000 in 1953. The state's rate of increase was exceeded by only ten states — the highly industrialized states of Michigan and Delaware and eight others in the rapidly expanding South and West. Within Iowa's immediate area only Kansas did better in this regard. Iowa's over-all rank among states in value added was now twenty-fourth. Furthermore, comparing the rate of increase in employment with that of value added it was found that in only two states did the rate of output per worker increase more rapidly than in Iowa.

Many other statistics can be cited as proof of Iowa's sizable industrial progress in recent years. The total value of goods manufactured in the state during 1955 is estimated at \$3,931,700,000 which is \$131,700,000 more than the previous high of 1954 and about 242 per cent above the value of goods produced in 1945. Salaries and wages paid to industrial workers rose from \$327,000,000 in 1947 to \$680,000,000 in 1955. These payrolls

constituted 10.4 per cent of the state's income in 1946, but by 1954 Iowa's citizens were getting 14.3 per cent of their income from this source.

In 1955 the Iowa Development Commission reported that there were 3,736 manufacturing plants in Iowa, almost a thousand of which had been established after 1945. The 13 largest cities in the state had 37.7 per cent of these plants. Des Moines had the most, 315, followed by Sioux City with 214, Cedar Rapids 175, Waterloo 123, Davenport 119, and Dubuque 109. But 2,023 of these industries were located in cities and towns of less than 10,000 population. Every county had at least four factories.

Agriculture need not fear that it is about to be demoted to secondary importance in the state's over-all economy, however. The census of 1953 revealed that Iowa's industries were largely concentrated in the following 20 counties:

Polk	Wapello	Marshall
Linn	Lee	Floyd
Black Hawk	Jasper	Jackson
Scott	Clinton	Jefferson
Dubuque	Webster	Pottawattamie
Des Moines	Muscatine	Iowa
Woodbury	Cerro Gordo	

These 20 counties had a total of 154,888 manufacturing employees in 1953 with a payroll of \$592,-624,000. The other 79 counties remain strongly agricultural. In addition, the most important industries in Iowa are those which are closely linked with the farm — food processing plants and the farm equipment industry. One of the encouraging

developments of recent years, however, for those interested in a truly balanced economy for Iowa has been the marked increase in importance of the industries which are not largely dependent upon the farmer. In 1953, in eleven of the thirteen categories into which the census bureau divided the nation's industries, Iowa exceeded the national rate in increase of value added since 1947. Whereas the national rate for primary metal industries was 191 per cent, Iowa's was 310. The percentage for the rubber industries in the nation was 155, but in Iowa it was 256, while in the field of precision instruments and related products Iowa exceeded the national rate by 388 to 185.

The following pages are devoted to 54 of Iowa's largest manufacturers. With a few exceptions these companies employ 500 or more workers. Through the use of a variety of pictures and a concise, factual account of each company it is hoped that the reader may gain a better idea of the wide diversity of present-day industry in the state. For several reasons materials on a few of the large concerns could not be obtained.

GEORGE S. MAY