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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF CONNECTICUT AS A MANUFACTURING STATE

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In most of the larger towns we find notice of a "sash, door, and blind factory," or of a "saddlery and harness factory," and shops of the makers of "mechanics' tools," evidences all of the growth of division of labor within the different communities but not evidence that can be cited to show that Connecticut had yet any claim to be called a "manufacturing state."

One striking thing about the manufactures of the state, both in important industries and in unimportant ones, is the complete absence of anything that can be classed as a luxury. Comforts there are and many necessities, but not an article was made which would not be bought and used by some plain person with but little money to spend.

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL CONNECTICUT MANUFACTURES, 1845

	No. Employed	Value Annual Output
TEXTILES		
cotton goods	5,362	\$3,023,326
woolen goods	2,149	3,280,575
silk	272	173,382
bleaching, coloring	302	618,000
worsted goods	42	82,000
carpets	946	597,028
hosiery and yarn	168	320,373
	9,241	\$8,094,784
DRESS (usually domestic system)		
ready made clothing	3,000 ca.	\$ 931,559
boots and shoes	6,000 ca.	1,741,920
palm leaf hats	593 ca.	113,780
hats and caps	1,461	921,806
	1,506	\$3,707,065
CARRIAGES AND WAGONS...		
	1,506	\$1,222,091
INDIA RUBBER		
rubber goods (domestic).....	329	\$ 225,000
rubber shoes	86	115,000
	415	\$ 340,000
PAPER		
	659	\$1,186,302
METAL INDUSTRIES		
Hardware		
small hardware	295	\$ 387,546
hollow ware	585	476,450

tin ware	414	487,810
cutlery, edge tools	176	91,837
	1,470	\$1,544,143
Brass		
foundries, kettle and wire		
fact.	608	\$1,126,494
button	637	428,762
pins	158	170,000
hooks and eyes	208	111,600
	1,611	\$1,836,856
Copper.....	40	\$ 275,000
Miscellaneous Metal Ware		
Britannia ware	130	\$ 145,157
plate	209	280,210
watches, jewelry	175	206,770
(handicraft chiefly)		
	614	\$ 632,137
Miscellaneous Iron		
rolled, or slit iron	170	\$ 442,061
forges	365	391,275
pig iron	362	272,000
agricultural implements	518	447,650
machinery	436	363,860
mechanics tools	170	442,061
steam engines and boilers	13	16,700
	2,041	\$2,080,026
Adjusted Machines		
clocks	656	\$ 771,115
firearms	164	155,825
	820	\$ 926,940

(2) Number of towns of each size at successive censuses.

	'40	'50	'60	'70	'80	'90	'00	'10
A	2	3	6	8	13	15	18	21
B	3	8	9	13	13	15	16	19
C	21	18	28	25	28	23	27	26
D	115	121	116	118	113	115	107	102
	141	150	159	164	167	168	168	168

(3) Per cent of the state's population in towns of each size.

	'40	'50	'60	'70	'80	'90	'00	'10
A	8.7	11.9	25.18	31.99	44.81	53.78	60.92	67.48
B	6.4	14.2	13.26	17.33	13.25	13.39	12.68	11.92
C	24.3	18.74	22.05	16.95	16.06	11.62	10.92	8.83
D	60.6	55.06	39.51	33.73	25.28	21.21	15.48	11.77
	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.

(4) Per cent of State's population in towns of each character.

	'40	'50	'60	'70	'80	'90	'00	'10
Urban	15.1	26.1	38.44	49.32	58.06	67.17	73.60	79.4
Urban or rural....	24.3	18.74	22.05	16.95	16.06	11.62	10.92	8.83
Rural	60.6	55.06	39.51	33.73	25.28	21.21	15.48	11.77
	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.

By these figures and by the accompanying diagram it is shown that not until the decade between 1870 and 1880 were more than half of the inhabitants of Connecticut living under urban conditions. In the years between 1840 and 1870 the population had increased 73%. By 1880 it was double what it had been in 1840. In this same time, the number of people living in towns of less than 3,000 had decreased from 187,485 to 161,073, a decrease of 14%. The number of such towns had decreased from 115 to 113, so that the size of the average rural town had changed from 1530 to 1434. On the other hand, the number of persons living in towns of more than 10,000 had increased from 27,183 to 279,151, a tenfold increase. The number of towns in this class had grown from two to thirteen. Since Connecticut possesses no important commercial center like New York or Boston it is fair to conclude that this increase in urban population is also a growth in manufacturing population.

A supplementary proof of the statement that it was in the decade 1870 to 1880 that Connecticut became predominantly a manufacturing state, in the sense that more than half her people earned their living by manufacturing or by occupations subsidiary to manufacturing, is found in the fact that in 1870 her population was almost exactly twice what it had been in 1820. It was shown on page 26 that the population of the state in 1820, approximately 275,000, was as large a number as the soil of the state could support by agriculture under the agricultural conditions of that time. It is interesting to note in this connection a statement made by Mr. Howard Elliott, chief executive officer of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad, in an article entitled, "Agriculture in Connecticut," published in 1912.³³ He says, "This great state . . . to-day produces but 25 per cent of what her people consume. Her consumption of food products amounts to over \$80,000,000 a year, and she produces less than \$20,000,000." The population of Connecticut at the last census was almost exactly four times what it was in 1820.

Having determined the date when Connecticut became predominantly a manufacturing state, we turn next to the United States census report on manufactures for 1880 to find of what kinds and how great was her manufacturing interest at this date. For greater intelligibility, the industries are taken out of the alphabetical order of the Census Report and are rearranged more nearly in the order followed in the British census.

CONNECTICUT MANUFACTURES IN 1880³⁴

	Average Number Employed	Value of Output
ALL INDUSTRIES	112,915	\$185,697,211
TEXTILES		
cotton goods	14,938	\$17,050,126
woolen goods	6,956	16,892,284
silk, silk goods	3,338	5,881,000
dyeing and finishing textiles...	303	464,800

³³ Connecticut. Industrial, Agricultural, etc., p. 12.

³⁴ U. S. Census, 1880. Manufactures: Connecticut by specified industries, pp. 96-99.

felt goods	174	429,496
worsted goods	490	1,597,227
shoddy	139	347,500
mixed textiles	2,948	5,919,505
carpets	1,654	2,500,559
hosiery, knit goods	2,211	2,432,271
	33,150	\$53,514,768
DRESS		
clothing, men's	1,605	\$2,210,159
shirts	1,071	699,605
corsets	4,374	3,322,359
boots and shoes	1,540	2,372,293
hats and caps, not wool.....	3,185	4,407,993
hat and cap materials	416	743,551
wool hats	539	1,003,992
	12,730	\$14,759,852
CARRIAGES		
carriages and wagons	1,648	\$2,605,591
carriage and wagon materials..	488	824,611
	2,136	\$ 3,430,202
INDIA RUBBER		
rubber and elastic goods.....	622	\$1,710,761
rubber shoes	2,112	4,175,997
rubber belting, hose	224	850,000
	2,978	\$ 6,736,758
PAPER	1,702	\$ 4,337,550
AMMUNITION	871	\$ 1,706,852
METAL INDUSTRIES		
Hardware		
small hardware	8,244	\$10,374,293
screws	120	210,000
iron and steel bolts, nuts, washers, rivets	961	1,662,131
saddlery hardware	270	570,000
nails and spikes	44	120,000
bells	160	251,024
cutlery, edge tools	2,659	2,704,708
	12,458	\$15,892,856
Brass		
brass castings	668	\$1,077,700
brass and copper, rolled.....	4,226	10,985,471

brassware	931	1,134,884
buttons	1,237	1,110,653
hooks and eyes	149	251,000
gas and lamp fixtures.....	915	1,000,000
lamps and reflectors	85	102,800
needles and pins.....	492	804,985
wire.....	528	890,481
electrical supplies.....	54	102,800
	9,285	\$18,451,594
Plated and Britannia ware.....	2,903	\$ 6,080,076
Miscellaneous		
foundry and machine shop		
products.....		
tools.....	4,781	\$6,339,599
files.....	1,007	1,631,295
iron forgings.....	47	49,675
agricultural implements.....	281	512,620
saws.....	565	719,627
springs, steel, car and car-	5	5,500
riage	298	622,841
steam fitting and heating		
apparatus	352	757,422
tinware, copper wire, sheet		
iron work.....	453	827,162
stamped ware	195	200,000
	7,984	\$11,665,741
Complex Machines		
clocks and clock cases and		
materials	2,616	\$3,067,217
sewing machines and attach-		
ments.....	2,088	2,969,741
firearms.....	2,389	2,470,398
	7,093	\$ 8,507,356

CONNECTICUT MANUFACTURES 1880 RECAPITULATION

	Average Number Employed	Value Output
Textiles	33,150	\$53,514,768
Dress	12,730	14,759,582
Carriages	2,136	3,430,202
India rubber	2,978	6,736,758
Paper	1,702	4,337,550
Ammunition	871	1,706,852

METAL INDUSTRIES

Hardware	12,458	\$15,892,856
Brass	9,285	18,451,594
Plated, brit. ware.....	2,903	6,080,076
Miscellaneous	7,984	11,665,741
Complex machines	7,093	8,507,356
	39,723	\$60,597,623
Total, selected industries	93,290	\$145,083,335
Total of state manufactures	112,915	\$185,697,211

The next and last of the three steps to be taken in concluding this introduction to the history of Connecticut as a manufacturing state is to determine among what cities and towns this manufacturing was distributed.

Because of our earlier surveys of manufacture in the state, we are not surprised by the names of the towns which in 1880 contained more than 10,000 inhabitants. Since 1845 three towns had come into the list of cities; these were, Waterbury in 1853, Meriden in 1867, and New Britain, which in 1845 was still a village in the town of Berlin, in 1870.

GROWTH OF LARGER CONNECTICUT TOWNS 1840 TO 1880

	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880
New Haven.....	14,390	20,345	39,267	50,840	62,882
Hartford	12,793	13,555	29,152	37,743	42,551
Bridgeport	4,570	7,560	13,299	19,835	29,148
Norwich	7,239	10,265	14,048	16,653	21,143
Waterbury	3,668	5,137	10,004	13,100	20,270
Meriden	1,800	3,559	7,426	10,495	18,340
New Britain.....		3,029	5,212	9,480	13,979
Norwalk	3,863	4,651	7,582	12,119	13,956
Middletown	7,210	8,441	8,620	11,126	11,732
Danbury	4,504	5,964	7,234	8,753	11,666
Derby	2,851	3,824	5,443	8,020	11,650
Stamford	3,516	5,000	7,185	9,714	11,297
New London.....	8,991	10,115	9,576	10,537	10,757

Though it is not planned in this study to go very far behind these figures to show the reason for these differing rates of growth, a few words of explanation may well be written. Hartford's slow rate of growth between 1840 and 1850 was occasioned by the cutting off of a large part of her territory to make