

Ham and bacon curing also increased, reflecting really an increase in the keeping of pigs as a subsidiary line in the dairying industry. The major expansion of those engaged in butter, cheese, and condensed-milk manufacturing is merely an indication of the increasing importance of dairying during the period. The increases in the grain milling and grain crushing industry are probably merely related to increases in population. Flour is a basic item and is required in amounts proportionate to the size of the population.

In the contracting industries the major feature is the fall of tanning, fellmongery, and woollscouring, which is largely, but not wholly, due to changes in farming techniques, and perhaps to the relatively less importance of horse transport.

The heading "Sawmilling and Sash and Door Making" covers principally sawmilling, the numbers engaged in sash and door making being relatively small. Detailed figures for the years between 1921 and 1931 show that over the most of that period the number employed in the industry has steadily declined. The building trade was buoyant in the early years of the decade, but, as is well known, this industry was among the first to feel the effects of the trade recessions in the later years of the decade. The capital construction industries are always among the first to feel the effects of an economic decline. The effects of the depression in taking men away from that type of work have been very serious because, as shown in another part of this report, the tendency once such people had left the industry was for them to remain away.

An outstanding case of a contracting industry was the flaxmilling (phormium), which fell very seriously as between 1901 and 1921. This is probably a result of competition internationally in other fibres. The figure of 177 in 1930-31 is abnormally low, and is definitely the result of the depression.

(2) THE PERIOD FROM 1929 TO 1944

Turning next to the second period, between 1929-30 and the present day, the following table gives a classification of the semi-primary industries, differentiating between stable, contracting, and expanding industries:

Table No. 97.—Table showing Employees engaged in Semi-primary Manufacturing Industries, 1929-30, 1937-38, 1942-43, and 1943-44

	1929-30.	1937-38.	1942-43.	1943-44.
(1) STABLE INDUSTRIES				
Vegetable food—				
Grain-milling	731	767	765	756
Vegetable products for fodder—				
Grain-crushing	88	69	79	76
(2) EXPANDING INDUSTRIES				
Animal food—				
Meat freezing and preserving	6,139	7,835	10,137	10,186
Ham and bacon curing	396	521	576	710
Fish curing and preserving	78	113	128	143
Harness, saddlery, and leatherware—				
Tanning	449	497	869	949
Animal matters (not elsewhere included)—				
Fellmongering and woollscouring	390	379	664	607
Working in wood—				
Sawmilling, sash and door making	7,381	8,364	7,574	7,806
(3) CONTRACTING INDUSTRIES				
Animal food—				
Butter, cheese, and condensed-milk manufacture	4,228	4,128	3,983	3,900
Fibrous materials—				
Flaxmilling (phormium)	903	537	256	377