gates and toll bridges. Recent State roads of macadam or concrete construction are too familiar to need especial attention. As one community after another is provided with year-round improved roads, every industry of the region is aided.

The first great advance in large-scale transportation was the opening of the Lehigh Canal in 1829. This waterway afforded ready transport of anthracite to Philadelphia and developed the coal industry on which so many other industries depend. Several years previously, coal had been shipped on flatboats down the Lehigh and Delaware rivers but as the boats could not be brought back the quantity shipped was very small.

The building of the railroads in the 1850’s and later marked a still more profound advance. The Lehigh Valley Railroad from Easton to Mauch Chunk was completed and began operation in 1855 and stimulated all the industries along its line. As each additional railroad or branch was built, the industries already established were able to expand and new industries were attracted.

The transit companies starting in 1865 were first confined to the larger boroughs but gradually were extended until they connected most of them. Owing to the recent building of hard roads, the tracks of the once valuable inter-urban transit lines are being torn up and trucks and buses are being substituted. It is difficult to foresee the future solution of the changing traffic situation.

Although the present transportation facilities leave much to be desired, they are reasonably adequate for the industries of the valley. No section of the region is ever isolated for more than a few hours even in the most inclement weather, and products can quickly and easily reach the large cities of the Atlantic seaboard. Improvements are being made and no doubt will continue.

Labor.—The region has attracted industries because of both adequate and efficient labor and, in general, the freedom from labor disputes. For many years the expanding industries gave opportunity for an ever-increasing number of European immigrants. Of course at present there is a vast surplus of both skilled and unskilled laborers but all hope and trust that this condition is only temporary. The region has been a melting pot. Here one sees the results of Americanization where the first generation consisted mainly of unskilled labor, and the second and third generations furnish their fair share of skilled labor.

The immigration of the first 150 years was largely from countries of northern Europe, particularly Germany and the British Isles, whereas in the last 50 years most immigrants have come from Italy