As the population of the Valley increased and the transportation facilities were improved, demand increased for perishable products, such as vegetables and berries, which now constitute a large part of the farm income.

Cattle, horses, hogs, sheep and poultry have been raised on most of the farms, but, with the exception of poultry, have seldom constituted the major interests of many farmers.

The growing of fruit was, until recent years, a minor activity. Practically every farmer had an apple orchard for his own use as well as a few cherry, peach, pear and plum trees. These were given little attention and produced an indifferent quality of fruit and variable yield. With appearance of the scale insect, the fruit trees died unless sprayed and in many cases the cost of spraying seemed prohibitive. A new era of fruit growing has developed in recent years, one which promises extremely satisfactory results.

Another farm industry that has grown greatly in recent years is dairying. From the beginning each farmer possessed a few cows to supply the family with milk and butter. Surplus supplies were marketed and with the sale of eggs and chickens helped to pay the store bills.

A unique agricultural industry of Northampton County is the production of dehydrated alfalfa meal by the Green Acre Farms near Nazareth. The production is about 6,000 tons per year. It is shipped all over the eastern part of the country.

Food and Beverage Industries.—Because of the close connection of the food industries with agriculture, they are discussed at this point. It is well recognized that, at the present time, the food industries of the region are not confined to the food materials produced in the region, yet at one time they were largely so. With the exception of sugar, salt and some other commodities the early settlers produced their entire food supplies. How greatly changed is the present situation! Articles of the daily food of our table are brought to us from the most remote portions of our own country and from many foreign countries.

Flour mills.—During the Revolution War the Lehigh Valley was called the granary of Washington’s army. The wheat grown in the Valley was ground into flour by the water-power mills along the creeks and hauled in wagons to Valley Forge. These small mills were valuable assets of the region for the first century of settlement, since which time their importance has dwindled. Some of these are still in operation although most are in ruins. Larger and more efficient units have taken their place.