The largest milling company in the Lehigh Valley and also the largest in the State is the Mauser Milling Co. with one plant at Northampton and others in Lehigh County. The company has a daily output of 1,000 barrels of flour made from Pennsylvania winter wheat, and spring wheat from the Northwest. The Flory Milling Co., Inc., of Bangor, is a long-established firm with an excellent reputation.

Bakeries.—The art of bread-making was at one time regarded as one of the most necessary qualifications for the housewife, and bakery bread was a luxury in certain homes and completely tabooed in others, largely due to the skill of the domestic cook. Within a few decades all this has changed so that now the bakeries constitute one of the largest food industries of the Valley. The substitution of bakery products for home-cooked products has been brought about by the superior quality as well as reasonable prices for the bakery output. There are numerous bakeries but naturally they cannot be separately named and described.

Pretzels are made in many communities. The products are consumed in large quantities locally and also shipped to other sections.

Ice cream.—The ice cream industry of the county dates back to 1858 when Herman S. Grosh began manufacturing it in Bethlehem. There have been many improvements and scores of concerns engaged in the business since then. Some of the brands have become noted for their quality. Abel's ice cream made in Easton was long justly famous. Many of the local companies have been absorbed by large corporations located outside the region that use the local plants merely as distributing centers.

Beverages.—In the early days there were many distilleries along the streams, and hard liquor was consumed in quantity. These small concerns have been superseded by large establishments engaged in the production of beer, ale and porter and soft drinks. During the days of prohibition some of the breweries closed their doors and others engaged in the manufacture of soft drinks. Since the repeal of the prohibition amendment the breweries have been overhauled, in some cases enlarged, and the industry re-established.

One brewery is responsible for the statement that "the general trend of the brewing industry today is to establish beer on the basis of a food rather than an intoxicating beverage, and legitimate brewers are backing this policy to their utmost. Among the newer developments in the brewing industry can be listed the canning of beer and the adding of vitamins."