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THE LEATHER TANNING INDUSTRY
IN CANADA IN 1918

Advance Chapter of
"Chemicals and Allied Products in Canada in 1918"

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THE LEATHER TANNING INDUSTRY IN CANADA in 1918

The leather tanning industry in Canada was carried on by 139 establishments during 1918. This shows an increase of three over 1917. Seventy-seven of these plants were located in Quebec, forty-six in Ontario, six in Nova Scotia, three in Manitoba, two in each of the Provinces of New Brunswick, Alberta, and British Columbia and one in Prince Edward Island.

The total value of the products turned out by this industry during the year was \$33,079,998. Of this sum, \$8,121,537 was reported as the selling value, at the factory, of sole leather; \$7,758,669 of upper leather; and \$7,797,270 of harness leather. All the other kinds of leather made had a total selling value of \$8,284,029, a large portion of which might be considered as belonging in one of the above classes, though it was not so reported by the manufacturers. In addition to the leather produced, large quantities of by-products such as wool, hair, and glue-stock, were obtained. These by-products had a selling value at the factory of \$1,118,443. An itemized list of the products and by-products is given on page 3.

The total value of the land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools, held by these 139 firms was \$6,689,575; materials on hand, stocks in process, finished products, fuel and miscellaneous supplies on hand were worth \$13,901,051; while the cash, operating accounts and bills receivable, amounted to \$7,845,130, making the total investment in the industry, \$28,435,806 at the end of the year.

EMPLOYEES, SALARIES AND WAGES

The average number of persons employed in the industry in 1918, was 3722, while wages and salaries amounted to \$3,464,845, a per capita payment of \$930.91. In 1917, \$3,260,106 was paid to 4128 persons; a per capita payment of \$790.

The following table gives the distribution and classification of the persons employed in the industry in December, the month in which the largest number of wage-earners were at work. It will be noted that the total number of employees as shown in the table exceeds the average number employed during the year.

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES

SALARIED EMPLOYEES	1917		1918	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Officers, Managers, Superintendents.....	169	3	130	...
Stenographers, Clerks and Salesmen and other salaried employees.....	132	50	111	49
OFFICE SUB-TOTAL.....	301	53	241	49
WAGE-EARNERS, receiving per week,				
Less than \$10.....	289	130	217	95
\$10 but less than \$15.....	1275	32	762	36
\$15 but less than \$20.....	1592	7	1299	9
\$20 but less than \$25.....	328	5	962	1
\$25 and over.....	118	...	265	1
TANNERY SUB-TOTAL.....	3602	174	3452	142
TOTAL.....	3903	227	3693	191

The total for 1918 includes 65 males and 15 females under 16 years of age; of these, 54 males and 12 females were in the class receiving less than \$10 per week.

FUEL

The fuel used in this industry, exclusive of any supplied to employees, cost \$476,302 laid down at the plants. Of this sum, \$405,626 was paid for 55,637 tons of bituminous coal of various grades, and \$20,544 for 3562 tons of anthracite, chiefly dust or slack. The source, quantity and cost at the works of the different kinds of fuel used are shown in the following table.

Unit of Measure	CANADIAN		FOREIGN	
	Quantity	Cost at Works	Quantity	Cost at Works
Bituminous, slack.....Tons	685	\$ 5,820	12,180	\$ 77,570
Bituminous, lump....."	4,235	24,275	18,935	146,290
Bituminous, run of mine....."	3,024	26,587	16,578	123,070
Anthracite, lump....."	25	348	801	6,470
Anthracite, dust or slack...."	250	975	2,490	12,806
Lake....."	2,555	14,247	51	477
Gasoline.....Gals.	963	328	...	...
Oil (fuel)....."	192	65	...	...
Wood.....Cord	7,375	27,159	...	...
Gas.....1000 cu.ft.	1,017	216	...	...
Spent tan bark.....Cord	1,595	4,686	...	...
" " "....."	...	4,930	...	...
TOTAL.....		\$109,636		\$366,666

MATERIALS USED

The next table shows the quantity and cost at the works of the materials used in this industry during the year. All the tanning materials should not be charged against the production, since a quantity of these must have been used in connection with the custom work carried on by some firms in addition to their regular work.

<u>MATERIALS USED</u>			
	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost at Works
Hides, tanned and curried:			
Cattle.....	Number	1,291,853	\$ 14,832,973
Calf and kip skins.....	"	896,908	3,425,845
Sheep and lamb skins.....	dozs.	57,293	918,770
Goatskins.....	Number	328,342	304,851
All other skins.....	"	30,790	25,435
Rough leather purchased and curried:			
Rough leather.....	sides	75,214	97,504
Rough splits.....	"	23,804	27,778
Rough grains.....	"	6,432	52,000
Bark for tanning.....	cords	36,955	550,527
Extracts, chemicals, dyes, etc. (value only)		...	2,261,827
All other tanning materials (value only)		...	1,186,149
TOTAL.....			\$23,681,659

PRODUCTS

The table below shows the quantity and selling value at the works, of the products made from the materials itemized above. In addition a certain amount of stock was tanned and curried for people other than those in the industry. The estimated value of leather produced from this custom work was \$2,093,775.

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Selling Value at Tannery
Sole leather: Hemlock.....	sides	480,444	\$ 4,307,847
Oak.....	"	395,609	3,756,870
Chrome.....	"	6,430	56,770
Upper leather: Grain, Satin, Pebbled, etc.	"	779,455	5,762,591
Finished Splits.....	number	650,483	768,730
Patent & Enamelled shoe leather.....	sides	176,015	1,227,848
Harness lather.....	"	608,033	7,797,270
Belting.....	"	70,490	713,973
Carriage, Automobile & Furniture leather	Hides	61,797	538,901
Glove, trunk, bag & Pocket-book leather	dozs.	58,406	1,590,417
Rockbinders' leather.....	"	8,402	66,570
Black leather and Goodyear welting.....			180,317
All tanned leather.....	Hides	18,224	350,548
Cattle skin.....	sides	656,634	570,941
Goat skin, Horsehides, etc.....	sides	16,834	127,177
Wolf skin.....	number	764,756	3,627,212
Deerskin leather.....		...	140,546
All other leather, including offal leather (value only)....			367,313
Wool.....	lbs.	322,605	354,065
Wool.....	"	2,809,512	126,141
Blue Stock.....	"	13,809,329	225,843
All other products & by-products (value only)			412,394
TOTAL.....			\$33,079,998

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The leather and other materials of interest in connection with the leather industry, which were imported in 1918 for consumption in Canada are shown below:

<u>IMPORTS-1918</u>		
<u>KIND.</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Hides, and skins, raw, whether dry, salted or pickled.....	17,640,127 lbs.	\$ 5,678,131
Belting, leather of all kinds.....	...	11,106
Calf, kid or goat, lamb and sheep skins tanned.....	...	166,404
Calf, kid or goat, lamb & sheep skins, dressed, waxed or glazed.....	...	3,098,074
Glove leathers, tanned or dressed, colored or uncolored, imported by glove manufacturers for use in their own factories in the manufacture of gloves.....	...	3,094,758
Harness leather.....	...	5,861
Japanned, patent or enamelled leather and Morocco leather and leather in imitation of Morocco leather.....	...	21,046
Skins for Morocco leather tanned but not further manufactured.....	...	1,655
Sole leather.....	...	64,252
Upper leather, not dressed waxed or glazed.....	...	18,561
Upper leather, including dongola, cordovan, kangaroo, alligator and all leather, dressed, waxed or glazed or further finished than tanned, n.o.p. and chamois skins.....	...	452,993
Other leather, dressed, waxed or glazed or further finished than tanned, n.o.p.	...	452,
Other leather & skins, n.o.p.....	...	342,855
Dyeing or tanning articles in a crude state used in dyeing or tanning n.o.p.	...	234,093
Tallow.....	1,811,819 lbs.	145,328
Soda hyposulphite, when imported by tanners for use in their own factories in the tanning of leather.....	1,364,699 lbs.	199,132
Logwood and Fustic, ground and, ground oak bark.....	353,930 lbs.	7,550
Extract of oak, and oak bark and quebracho	45,580 lbs.	4,380
	33,833,646 lbs.	1,822,830

EXPORTS

The next table shows Canadian products bearing a similar interest to the industry which were exported during 1918.

<u>KIND</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Hides and skins.....		\$ 4,831,522
Sheep pelts.....		239,807
Harness leather.....	7,280,517 lbs.	4,957,862
Sole leather.....	4,380,033 lbs.	1,965,815
Upper leather.....	809,060 lbs.	1,930,870
Other leather unmanufactured.....		398,695
Tallow.....	361,060 lbs.	68,944
Extract of Hemlock bark.....	...	9,188

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Rent of offices, works and machinery.....	\$ 47,759
Rent of Power	75,961
Insurance (Premium for year only).....	145,499
Taxes - (Internal revenue, war, etc.....	98,473
(Municipal, Provincial, etc.....	70,107
Royalties, use of patents, etc.....	3,184
Advertising expenses.....	13,569
Travelling expenses.....	53,627
Ordinary repairs to buildings and machinery.....	248,619
All other sundry expenses, (not including salaries, wages, fuel cost, etc.).....	824,084
TOTAL.....	\$1,598,862

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