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S. J. COOK, B. A., A. I. C. - CHIEF OF THE
MINING METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL BRANCHTHE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1923

The production of motor vehicles in Canada during 1923 exceeded all previous records and reached a total of 147,582 valued at \$97,369,814, as compared with 101,007 in 1922 and 94,144 made during 1920 according to a statement just issued by the Mining, and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Included in the foregoing total were 380 trucks valued at \$755,638 manufactured by firms whose main products were not motor vehicles, but as other statistics pertaining to the manufacture of these trucks could not be proportioned, the statistical review of the industry covers only those concerns producing motor vehicles as their major product. The value of the production by the industry proper in 1923 was \$96,614,176 and while this was 18 per cent greater than in 1922, it did not come up to the total value of the 1920 production of \$101,465,846. Service and service parts included in the 1923 total were valued at \$9,390,793, while the same item in 1920 amounted to \$12,754,125 leaving the value of motor cars made in the automobile industry in 1923 at \$87,223,383, and in 1920 at \$88,711,721.

Employment was afforded to 9,305 persons, an increase of 1,961 over the previous year and 1,024 over the number employed in 1920. Salaries and wages advanced to \$14,998,267, an increase of \$3,724,624 over the previous year, and \$1,667,183 over 1920.

There were 10 firms engaged in the industry in 1923 as against 15 in the previous year. The firms that went out of business were among the smaller ones and in spite of the decrease in number, the capital employed increased from \$47,761,964 to \$60,146,195. The latter figure includes the cost of lands, buildings and fixtures valued at \$18,142,018; machinery and tools valued at \$10,595,669 inventory of materials \$16,444,121; and cash, trading and operating accounts \$14,964,387. The estimated yearly capacity of the plants is 186,500 automobiles and 10,100 trucks so that the production in 1923 (147,202 vehicles), was 75 per cent of capacity. The total area covered by plants was 116 acres and the total

floor space of buildings 4,126,295 square feet.

The production during 1923 consisted of 106,226 pleasure cars valued at \$69,904,073; commercial cars to the number of 19,226 valued at \$8,941,011; and 21,750 chassis valued at \$8,378,299. The total of pleasure cars was made up of 5,296 roadsters, 71,861 five-passenger touring cars, 1,860 seven-passenger touring cars, 10,051 coupes, 16,677 five-passenger closed cars and 481 seven-passenger closed cars.

Of the roadsters produced, 4,821 were four-cylinder, 474 six-cylinder and 1 eight-cylinder. The total of five-passenger touring cars consisted of 65,151 four-cylinder, 6,679 six-cylinder and 31 eight-cylinder cars. The total of seven-passenger touring cars included 1,811 six-cylinder, and 49 eight-cylinder.

The coupes manufactured during the year included 10,008 four-cylinder, 41 six-cylinder and 2 eight-cylinder. Of the five-passenger closed cars, 15,273 were four-cylinder, 1,352 six-cylinder and 52 eight-cylinder. The total of seven-passenger closed cars was made up of 411 six-cylinder and 70 eight-cylinder.

The commercial automobiles manufactured in Canada during 1923 all contained four-cylinder engines. There were 1,751 under one-ton capacity; 17,467 between one ton and five tons and 3 with capacity of five tons or over. In addition there were 380 trucks manufactured outside the industry.

Classified by types of engines, the chassis manufactured during the year included 20,337 four-cylinder; 1,412 six-cylinder; and 1 eight-cylinder.

The average selling value at the factories of the roadsters was \$532, the five-passenger touring cars \$586, the seven-passenger touring cars \$1,337, the coupes \$604, the five-passenger closed cars \$910, the seven-passenger closed car \$2,565, the chassis \$385 trucks under one-ton \$424, trucks one to five tons \$466, and trucks five tons or over, \$6,450.

The value of motor vehicles and parts imported into Canada during 1923 was \$32,081,604. Included in the imports were 1,355 commercial cars valued at \$1,879,574 and 10,467 passenger cars valued at \$10,447,045. In addition to this there were 31,547

engines valued at \$4,707,352 and other parts valued at \$15,047,633. The value of the exports of automobiles and parts during 1923 was \$37,359,069 an increase of 55 per cent over the previous year. The total comprised 57,481 passenger cars valued at \$29,325,033, parts worth \$3,530,377 and 12,439 trucks at \$4,503,659.

The consumption of automobiles, arrived at by adding the quantity produced to the number imported and deducting the exports was 53,790 passenger cars, 8,506 trucks and 21,750 chassis.. There were 536,764 motor vehicles registered in Canada during 1923.. The ratio registrations to population was 1 vehicle to 15.6 persons for the whole Dominion. Taken by provinces the per capita registrations amounted to 1 vehicle for:- 10.8 persons in Ontario, 12.1 in Saskatchewan, 13.4 in British Columbia, 14.1 in Alberta, 15.1 in Manitoba, 23.6 in New Brunswick, 29.0 in Nova Scotia, 33.7 in Quebec, 35.3 in Prince Edward Island, and 143.5 in the Yukon and North West Territories..

A census of the motor cars shows that there were 504,446 licenses issued in the previous year, 147,562 cars produced and 11,822 imported in 1923 making a total of 663,850 available for use. Of this number, 576,598 cars were registered in 1923, the number exported was 70,358 and the remainder 16,894 were either unsold or withdrawn from use. The number computed in similar manner for the previous year was 525,687.



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