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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

REPORT

on the

SILK INDUSTRY

in

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OTTAWA, CANADA.

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THE SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1924

Ottawa, March 1926. A report is herewith presented on the silk industry in Canada for the calendar year 1924. The total number of establishments in operation rose from 7 in 1923 to 10 in 1924, an increase of 3 establishments - of which 6 were in Quebec and 4 in Ontario.

Principal Statistics

A summary of the principal statistics of the industry compared for the calendar years 1923 and 1924, is shown in Table I.

Table I. Principal Statistics of the Silk Industry for 1923-1924.

		1923	1924
Establishments	No.	7	10
Capital employed	$	4,594,313	5,744,502
Employees on salaries - male	No.	190	64
female	No.	132	39
salaries	$	480,032	203,464
Employees on wages -(average number)-male	No.	312	341
female	No.	823	766
wages	$	744,004	775,222
Cost of fuel	$	37,759	36,226
Power installation - units	No.	99	334
capacity	Horse-power	1,040	1,529
Cost of materials	$	2,677,229	2,486,845
Gross value of products	$	5,044,968	4,381,234
Net value of products	$	2,367,739	1,894,389

Production

In reporting production in this industry it has been found necessary to greatly reduce the items of products in order to avoid disclosure of individual statistics regarding these commodities, which will account for the apparently few items of silk manufacture as compared with those given in previous years. The output of silk and silk goods in Canada during the calendar year 1924 is shown by provinces in Table II. The total value of all products declined from $5,044,968 in 1923 to $4,381,234 in 1924 a decrease of $663,734 over the two year period in spite of the fact that 3 more firms reported operations during the latter year. The province of Quebec with a total output valued at $3,164,278 accounted for 72.2 per cent and Ontario with $1,216,956 contributed 27.8 per cent to the total value of production throughout the Dominion.

Table II - Production of silk and silk goods by provinces, 1924.

Principal products		Canada		Ontario		Quebec	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			$		$		$
Broad silk, silk crepe, etc.	Yd.	464,672	872,561	172,315	280,704	292,357	591,857
Silk thread natural and artificial	-	-	1,135,969	-	-	-	1,135,969
All other products including custom work	-	-	2,372,704	-	936,252	-	1,436,452
Total		-	4,381,234	-	1,216,956	-	3,164,278

Capital Investment

The capital employed in the silk industry in Canada during the calendar year 1924 is shown by provinces in Table III. The total investment rose from $4,594,313 in 1923 to $5,744,502 in 1924, an increase of $1,150,189. The province of Quebec with $4,727,242 contributed 82.2 per cent of the total capital investment for the Dominion.

Table III - Capital investment by provinces, 1924.

Provinces	Fixed Capital: Land, buildings fixtures, machinery and tools	Working Capital: Materials on hand, Stocks in process etc.	Working Capital: Cash trading and operating accounts & bills receivable	Total Capital
	$	$	$	$
Canada	3,348,634	1,634,942	760,926	5,744,502
Quebec	2,839,933	1,294,841	592,468	4,727,242
Ontario	508,701	340,101	168,458	1,017,260

Employees, Salaries and Wages.

The number of persons employed during the year 1924 is given in Table IV by (a) classes of employment, (b) sex and (c) salary and wage payments. The number of persons employed during the year 1923 was 1,457 and their salary and wage payments amounted to $1,224,036. For the period covered by this report the number recorded was 1,210 with a payroll of $978,686, being a decrease of 247 employees and $245,350 in salary and wage payments.

Table IV. Employees, salaries and wages, 1924.

Classes of Employment	Male No.	Female No.	Salaries and Wages
Employees on salaries	64	39	203,464
Employees on wages (average number)	341	766	775,222
Total	405	805	978,686

Other Employment Statistics

The number of days the establishments were in operation during the calendar year 1924 together with the number of hours per day and per week normally worked by wage-earners is given in Table V(a). The number of wage-earners employed during the year is given by sex and by months in Table V(b). The maximum number employed was 1,149 in the month of September whilst the minimum number reported was 1,056 in January.

Table V(a) - Days in operation and hours worked, 1924.

Number of establishments in operation	10	
	Total	Average
Days in operation on full time	2,464	246.4
Days in operation on part time	146	14.6
Days idle	430	43.0
Hours worked by wage-earners per day or shift	13,070	9.9
Number of hours worked by wage-earners per week	501	50.1

Table V(b) - Wage-earners by months, 1924.

Months	Male No.	Female No.	Months	Male No.	Female No.
January	330	726	July	338	758
February	338	764	August	341	778
March	346	780	September	358	791
April	345	798	October	361	783
May	340	738	November	350	758
June	332	729	December	315	789
			Total	4,092	9,192
			Average number employed during the year	341	766

Fuel Consumption

The quantity and value of the various kinds of fuel consumed in the industry during the calendar year 1924 will be found in Table VI. The total fuel costs fell from $37,759 in 1923 to $36,226 in 1924, a decrease of $1,533 over the two year period.

Table VI. Fuel Consumption, 1924.

Kinds of fuel	Unit of measure	Quantity	Cost Value $
Bituminous coal	ton	2,768	19,601
Anthracite coal	ton	2,215	16,475
Gasoline	gallon	500	150
Total	-	-	36,226

Power Installation

The power installation of the industry in the calendar year 1924 is given in Table VII by (a) classes of power, (b) number of units in each class and (c) the horse-power capacity according to manufacturers rating. In 1923 there were 99 units developing 1,040 horse-power. For the period covered by this report there were 334 units, with a capacity of 1,529 horse-power, an increase of 235 units and 489 horse-power. The cost of electricity purchased during the year was $26,947 being an average of $34.90 per horse-power for power purchased. The number of boilers installed for all purposes was 15 with a total horse-power capacity was 1,315.

Table VII - Power installation, 1924.

Classes of power	No. of Units	Horse-power capacity
Steam engines and turbines	4	115
Hydraulic turbines and water wheels	3	225
electric motors operated by purchased power	313	1,082
Total power used in manufacturing	320	1,422
Electric motors operated by power generated at the factory	14	107
Total electric motor installation	327	1,189
Grand Total power installation	334	1,529

Materials Used

The cost value of the various materials used in the industry during the calendar year 1924 was $2,486,845. To this total Quebec contributed $1,696,162 and Ontario $790,683. The total cost of all materials used fell from $2,677,229 in 1923 to $2,486,845 in 1924, a decrease of $190,384. For the year 1924 manufacturers of silk and silk goods were not required to furnish information concerning the kinds or quantities of the various materials used in the industry.

Imports and Exports

The quantity and value of raw and partly manufactured silk and manufactured articles of silk imported into and exported from Canada during the calendar year 1924 is given in Tables VIII and IX.

Table VIII(a) - Imports of real silk and silk goods, 1924.

Articles Imported	United Kingdom		United States		Other Countries	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		$		$		$
Raw materials:						
Silk cocoons or silk waste	-	456	-	2,236	-	-
Silk, raw or as reeled from cocoon not mfrd. Lb.	-	-	294,581	1,958,712	59,781	336,329
Partly manufactured materials: Silk spun not colored, n.o.p. Lb.	7,793	15,537	9,068	46,953	-	-
Silk in the gum or spun for m'f'r of ribbons and laces Lb.	-	-	125	1,943	-	-
Silk in the gum or spun for m'f'r of underwear labels, etc. Lb.	21,996	69,259	10,734	58,185	1,434	6,060
Sewing and embroidery silk, silk twist, etc.	-	90,540	-	37,450	-	3,431
Manufactured Articles:						
Bolting cloth not made up	-	108	-	43,096	-	54
Handkerchiefs, silk	-	45,734	-	1,633	-	165,408
Ribbons of all kinds and materials	-	135,041	-	363,105	-	892,593
Silk cloth woven in the gum not boiled or bleached	-	4,083	-	8,081	-	673,569
Silk fabrics for m'f'r of neckties	-	25,782	-	379,142	-	281,152
Silk fabrics, n.o.p.	-	962,155	-	1,038,944	-	8,467,725
Velvets Yds.	545,028	733,000	28,592	68,389	482,019	548,166
Blouses and shirt waists, silk	-	12,156	-	34,247	-	83,048
Shawls, silk	-	3,004	-	869	-	3,291
Shirts, silk Doz.	63	2,297	37	1,425	628	15,713
Socks and stockings silk. Doz.prs.	5,333	44,565	42,359	447,014	1,229	9,212
Undershirts and drawers, silk	-	728	-	425	-	4,220
Clothing, silk, n.o.p.	-	221,832	-	862,734	-	720,578
Silk and all manufactures of n.o.p.	-	58,731	-	90,133	-	64,764
Total	-	2,425,011	-	5,444,716	-	12,275,313

Tables VIII(b). Imports of artificial silk and silk goods, 1924.

Articles Imported	United Kingdom		United States		Other Countries	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		$		$		$
Partly manufactured:						
Artificial silk yarn not colored Lb.	1,259,137	1,824,647	127,922	221,987	218,519	362,045
Artificial silk tops and waste Lb.	7,400	5,407	73,090	43,054	3,692	2,894
Artificial silk yarns, n.o.p. Lb.	16,339	25,893	10,323	28,549	5,489	8,515
Wholly manufactured:						
Artificial silk fabrics etc. n.o.p. -	-	455,253	-	135,746	-	304,787
Manufactures of artificial silk etc. n.o.p.	-	19,072	-	6,951	-	14,550
Total	-	2,330,272	-	436,287	-	692,791

Table IX - Exports of silk and silk goods, 1924.

Articles exported	United Kingdom	United States	Other Countries
	$	$	$
Silk and manufactures of	223,632	11,026	178,875