CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

REPORT

on the

SILK INDUSTRY

in

CANADA

1926

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
OTTAWA, CANADA

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THE SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1926

Ottawa, December 1927.- A report is herewith presented on the silk industry in Canada for the calendar year 1926. The total number of establishments in operation rose from 11 in 1925 to 12 in 1926, an increase of 1 establishment - of which 8 were in Quebec and 4 in Ontario.

Principal Statistics

A summary of the principal statistics of the industry compared for the calendar years 1925 and 1926 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.- Principal Statistics of the Silk Industry for 1925-1926.

		1926	1925
Establishments	No.	12	11
Capital employed	$	10,019,519	9,224,224
Employees on salaries - male	No.	131	114
female	No.	61	52
Salaries	$	357,808	275,116
Employees on wages - (average number)			
male	No.	781	552
female	No.	1,450	1,009
Wages	$	1,627,192	1,089,741
Cost of fuel and electricity	$	178,140	122,996
Power installation - units	No.	4,506	4,398
capacity	Horse power	3,283	3,022
Cost of materials	$	3,472,965	3,361,035
Gross value of products	$	8,507,153	5,483,363
Net value of products	$	5,034,188	2,122,328

Other Comparative Statistics

A table showing comparative statistics of the silk industry in Canada indicates the advance made in the industry during the past five years. During that period the number of establishments increased by 71 per cent, capital investments by 117 per cent, employees by 65 per cent, salaries and wages by 60 per cent, materials by 53 per cent and the gross value of products by 82 per cent.

Comparative Statistics of the Silk Industry in Canada, 1917-1926.

Year	Establishments	Capital	Employees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials	Value of Products
	No.	$	No.	$	$	$
1917	9	2,223,164	824	392,398	837,041	2,372,001
1918	7	2,890,431	975	438,695	1,436,229	2,451,220
1919	8	3,661,373	1,294	698,760	1,975,539	3,317,181
1920	5	4,901,679	1,165	817,440	3,438,792	5,376,751
1921	5	4,559,909	932	719,845	1,890,171	3,536,513
1922	7	4,618,448	1,467	1,236,130	2,267,250	4,675,205
1923	7	4,594,313	1,457	1,224,036	2,677,229	5,044,968
1924	10	5,744,502	1,210	978,686	2,486,845	4,381,234
1925	11	9,224,224	1,727	1,364,857	3,361,035	5,483,363
1926	12	10,019,519	2,423	1,985,000	3,472,965	8,507,153

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. The output of silk and silk goods in Canada during the calendar year 1926 is shown by provinces in Table 11. The total value of all products rose from $5,483,363 in 1925 to $8,507,153 in 1926, an increase of $3,023,790 or over 55 per cent. The province of Quebec with a total output valued at $3,931,412 accounted for 46.2 per cent and Ontario with $4,575,741 contributed for 53.8 per cent of the total value of production throughout the Dominion.

Of the twelve mills reporting, two had a total gross value of production under $200,000 the average output being $99,545. Four mills reported a total gross value under $500,000 with an average production per mill of $357,906, whilst of the remaining six mills, three reported a production exceeding $500,000, the average per mill being $628,253 and three others, a gross production exceeding a million dollars, the average per mill being $1,663,893.

Table 11. - Production of Silk and Silk Goods by Provinces, 1926.

Principal Products		Canada		Ontario		Quebec	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			$		$		$
Broad silk, silk piece goods, etc.	Yd.	1,205,930	1,960,816	606,770	976,656	599,160	984,160
Silk and artifical silk yarns & thread	Lb.	2,435,619	4,552,254	2,127,533	3,341,819	308,086	1,210,435
All other products including custom work		-	1,994,083	-	257,266	-	1,736,817
TOTAL		-	8,507,153	-	4,575,741	-	3,931,412

THE SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1926

Capital Investment

Tha capital employed in the silk industry in Canada during the calendar year 1926 is shown by provinces in Table 111. The total investment rose from $9,224,224 in 1925 to $10,019,519 in 1926, an increase of $795,295 or 8.6 per cent. The province of Quebec with $5,607,849 contributed 56 per cent of the total capital investment for the Dominion.

Table 111. - Capital Investment by Provinces, 1926

Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working Capital		
	Land, buildings fixtures, machinery and tools	Materials on hand, Stocks in process, etc.	Cash trading and operating accounts & bills receivable	Total Capital
	$	$	$	$
Canada	6,399,357	2,170,212	1,449,950	10,019,519
Quebec	3,466,660	1,378,444	762,745	5,607,849
Ontario	2,932,697	791,768	687,205	4,411,670

A measure of the size of establishments according to the total amount of capital invested is shown in the summary following under four main groups. The average capital investment is high in all of the groups but especially so in the two middle ones. The percentage to total of the group being almost 90 in the second and over 70 in the third.

Capital invested by plants	Number	Total Capital investment	Average Capital investment
Under $200,000	3	363,907	121,302
$200,000 to under $500,000	3	1,295,198	431,733
$500,000 to under $1,000,000	3	2,163,222	721,074
$1,000,000 and over	3	6,197,192	2,065,730

Employees, Salaries and Wages

The number of persons employed during the year 1926 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 1925 was 1,727 and their salary and wage payments amounted to $1,364,857. For the period covered by this report the number recorded was was 2,423 with a payroll of $1,985,000, being an increase of 696 employees and $620,143 in salary and wage payments.

Table IV. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1926.

Classes of Employment	Male No.	Female No.	Salaries and Wages $
Employees on salaries	131	61	357,808
Employees on wages (average number)	781	1,450	1,627,192
T O T A L	912	1,511	1,985,000

A summary of employment by provinces, sex and remuneration shows that of a total of 2,423 persons employed 1,297 were in Quebec of whom 430 were males and 867 were females. In Ontario the total number employed was 1,126 of whom 482 were males and 644 were females. The average payment per employee whether on salaries or wages was $720 in Quebec and $933 in Ontario, whilst the average for the Dominion was $1863.60 for salaried employees and $729.35 for wage earners.

Employees by Provinces, 1926.

	Male No.	Female No.	Total Salaries & Wages $
Canada	912	1,511	1,985,000
Quebec	430	867	934,217
Ontario	482	644	1,050,783

A measure of the size of establishments in the silk industry based on employment shows that four of the twelve plants employed less than 100 persons or an average per plant of 51. Seven plants employed over 100 but less than 500 persons, whilst the remaining plant employed over 500 persons, the average of the former being 200 per plant and of the latter 821 per plant.

Other Employment Statistics

The number of days the establishments were in operation during the calendar year 1926 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 2,312 in the month of November whilst the minimum number reported was 2,037 in January.

Table V(a) - Days in operation and hours worked, 1926.

Number of establishments in operation	12	
	Total	Average
Days in operation on full time	3,393	282.75
Days in operation on part time	45	3.75
Days idle	210	17.50
Hours worked by wage-earners per day or shift	22,833	9.14
Number of hours worked by wage-earners per week	612	51.00

Table V(b) - Wage-earners by Months, 1926.

Months	Male No.	Female No.	Months	Male No.	Female No.
January	705	1,332	July	782	1,424
February	760	1,369	August	787	1,442
March	769	1,468	September	780	1,491
April	787	1,480	October	802	1,483
May	775	1,428	November	808	1,504
June	772	1,429	December	833	1,455
			Total	9,360	17,305
			Average number employed during the year	781	1,450

THE SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA

Fuel Consumption

The quantity and value of the various kinds of fuel consumed in the industry during the calendar year 1926 will be found in Table VI. The total fuel costs rose from $76,876 in 1925 to $102,676 in 1926, an increase of $25,800 over the two year period.

Table VI. - Fuel Consumption, 1926.

Kinds of fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value $
Bituminous coal	ton	11,656	81,405
Anthracite coal	ton	2,866	19,492
Gasoline	gal.	4,000	1,760
Gas, artificial or natural	m. cu. ft.	15	19
Total	-	-	102,676

Power Installation

The power installation of the industry in the calendar year 1926 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 1925 there were 4,384 units developing 2,915 horse-power. For the period covered by this report there were 4,506 units, with a capacity of 3,283 horse-power, an increase of 122 units and 368 horse-power. The cost of electricity purchased during the year was $75,464. The number of boilers installed for all purposes was 20 with a total horse-power capacity of 1,805.

Table VII.- Power Installation, 1926.

Classes of Power	No. of Units	Horse-power capacity
Steam engines and turbines	6	156
Hydraulic turbines and water wheels	-	-
Electric motors operated by purchased power	4,500	3,127
Total power used in manufacturing	4,506	3,283

Materials Used

The cost value of the various materials used in the industry during the calendar year 1926 was $3,472,965. Of this total Quebec contributed $1,784,561 and Ontario $1,688,404. The total cost of all materials used rose from $3,361,035 in 1925 to $3,472,965 in 1926, an increase of $111,930. The principal materials used during the calendar year 1926 are itemized in Table VIII by provinces.

Materials used by Provinces, 1926.

Classes of Material	Canada		Quebec		Ontario	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Lb.	$	Lb.	$	Lb.	$
Raw Silk	303,552	1,799,811	146,407	925,086	157,145	874,725
Yarns, thread, etc. for further manufacture of silk or rayon	269,942	567,301	203,431	389,558	66,511	177,743
Yarns, and thread of cotton	380,783	224,187	380,783	224,187	-	-
Yarns, woollen & worsted	47,437	62,137	42,937	54,137	4,500	8,000
Yarns, all other	34,418	37,961	34,418	37,961	-	-
Pulp, chemicals soap & dyed stuffs	-	659,467	-	40,496	-	618,971
All other materials	-	122,101	-	113,136	-	8,965
Total cost	-	3,472,965	-	1,784,561	-	1,688,404

Imports and Exports

Imports.- The quantity and value of raw, partly manufactured and fully manufactured articles, the chief componant material being of silk or artificial silk, imported for consumption in Canada is shown by principal countries for the calendar year 1926 in table IX. The total value of imports of silk and artificial silk or rayon imported during 1926 amounted to $35,146,189 of which silk from the cocoon totalled $29,645,173 and artificial silk $5,500,416.

Table IX.- Imports for consumption by principal countries, 1926.

Articles by Countries	Unit	Quantity	Value
			$
Silk cocoons and silk waste (value only)			
United States	-	-	12,642
Other Countries	-	-	662
Total	-	-	13,304
Silk, raw or as reeled from the cocoon, not being doubled twisted or manufactured in any way -			
United Kingdom	pound	800	3,748
United States	"	544,340	3,381,236
Japan	"	75,753	464,553
Other Countries	"	100	748
Total	"	620,993	3,850,285
Silk in the gum or spun for the manufacture of underwear or woven labels -			
United Kingdom	pound	33,232	110,627
United States	"	9,769	55,969
Switzerland	"	2,496	9,401
Other Countries	"	5,579	27,680
Total	"	51,076	203,677
Silk spun, not coloured, silk in the gum and tram silk - (value only)			
United States	pound	869	4,232
Other Countries	"	337	1,445
Total	"	1,206	5,677
Sewing and embroidery silk, silk twiste and silk floss - (value only) -			
United Kingdom	-	-	113,470
United States	-	-	41,973
Other Countries	-	-	2,445
Total	-	-	157,888
Bolting cloth not made up - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	128
United States	-	-	40,881
Other Countries	-	-	3,376
Total	-	-	44,385
Handkerchiefs, silk - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	78,022
United States	-	-	2,935
France	-	-	46,726
Japan	-	-	246,741
Switzerland	-	-	13,315
Other Countries	-	-	20,759
Total	-	-	408,498
Ribbons of all kinds and materials - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	72,800
United States	-	-	262,398
France	-	-	433,627
Germany	-	-	57,282
Switzerland	-	-	438,516
Other Countries	-	-	3,855
Total	-	-	1,268,478

Imports and Exports (Cont'd)

Table IX.- Imports for Consumption by principal Countries, 1926. (Cont'd)

Articles by Countries	Units	Quantity	Value $
Silk cloth, woven in the gum when imported for dyeing and finishing (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	9,756
United States	-	-	1,004
France	-	-	190,687
Japan	-	-	2,588,455
Switzerland	-	-	574,403
Other countries	-	-	4,119
Total	-	-	3,368,424
Silk fabrics of which silk is the component materials of chief value for the manufacture of neckties - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	26,190
United States	-	-	721,015
France	-	-	16,910
Germany	-	-	83,830
Italy	-	-	37,752
Switzerland	-	-	189,984
Other countries	-	-	43,199
Total	-	-	1,118,880
Silk fabrics, n.e.p. - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	707,425
United States	-	-	1,937,764
Belgium	-	-	12,744
China	-	-	28,309
France	-	-	2,891,694
Germany	-	-	61,014
Italy	-	-	204,729
Japan	-	-	3,400,846
Switzerland	-	-	4,120,069
Other countries	-	-	59,037
Total	-	-	13,423,631
Velvets -			
United Kingdom	yards	723,895	973,079
United States	"	37,949	45,843
Belgium	"	35,156	39,475
France	"	488,879	512,893
Germany	"	26,379	63,939
Netherlands	"	1,277	1,843
Switzerland	"	10,685	14,926
Other countries	"	1,302	1,347
Total	"	1,325,522	1,653,345
Blouses and shirt waists, silk -(value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	1,528
United States	-	-	6,317
France	-	-	8,732
Total	-	-	16,577
Shawls, silk - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	2,843
United States	-	-	16,482
France	-	-	9,508
Germany	-	-	1,611
Other countries	-	-	17,861
Total	-	-	48,305
Shirts, silk -			
United Kingdom	dozen	14	767
United States	"	46	1,884
Japan	"	165	4,318
Other countries	"	9	413
Total	"	234	7,382

Imports and Exports (Cont'd)

Table IX. Imports for Consumption by principal Countries, 1926. (Cont'd)

Articles by Countries	Units	Quantity	Value $
Socks and Stockings, silk -			
United Kingdom	doz.pairs	5,339	39,554
United States	"	76,740	690,626
Germany	"	2,784	19,986
Other Countries	"	1,948	24,429
Total	"	86,811	774,595
Undershirts and drawers, silk - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	869
United States	-	-	7,545
France	-	-	348
Japan	-	-	182
Other Countries	-	-	3,260
Total	-	-	12,204
Clothing, silk n.o.p. - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	333,816
United States	-	-	1,033,870
Belgium	-	-	47,986
China	-	-	15,196
France	-	-	1,224,369
Germany	-	-	18,705
Japan	-	-	103,786
Switzerland	-	-	4,209
Other Countries	-	-	22,291
Total	-	-	2,804,228
Silk and all manufactures of which silk is the chief component material -			
United Kingdom	-	-	86,153
United States	-	-	177,328
France	-	-	184,340
Japan	-	-	34,673
Other Countries	-	-	23,516
Total			466,010
Total Silk and manufactures of - (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	2,560,775
United States	-	-	8,441,944
France	-	-	5,459,834
Germany	-	-	306,367
Italy	-	-	242,481
Japan	-	-	6,863,554
Switzerland	-	-	5,364,823
Other Countries	-	-	405,995
Total	-	-	29,645,775
Artificial silk yarns etc. n.o.p. -			
United Kingdom	Lb.	191,309	333,297
United States	"	67,719	127,572
Belgium	"	144,129	232,693
Germany	"	144,097	156,869
Italy	"	26,748	28,957
Netherlands	"	659,828	720,657
Switzerland	"	67,591	68,299
Other Countries	"	23,491	27,492
Total	"	1,324,912	1,695,836

Imports and Exports (Cont'd)

Table IX. - Imports for Consumption by principal Countries, 1926 (Cont'd).

Articles by Countries	Units	Quantity	Value $
Artificial silk tops and wastes -			
United Kingdom	Lb.	68,841	28,099
United States	"	339,929	131,890
Germany	"	26,093	18,767
Other Countries	"	1,210	773
Total	"	436,073	179,529
Artificial silk yarns, threads or twists, n.o.p.			
United Kingdom	Lb.	23,038	36,717
United States	"	2,753	6,368
France	"	1,709	2,843
Germany	"	3,106	3,987
Other Countries	"	10,234	15,970
Total	"	40,840	65,885
Artificial silk fabrics, n.o.p. (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	2,023,474
United States	-	-	426,641
France	-	-	234,873
Germany	-	-	94,162
Italy	-	-	46,234
Netherlands	-	-	1,115
Switzerland	-	-	472,389
Other Countries	-	-	34,606
Total	-	-	3,333,494
Socks and stockings of artificial silk			
United Kingdom	doz.pair	6,326	44,321
United States	"	12,337	46,650
Germany	"	966	5,107
Other Countries	"	396	2,881
Total	"	20,025	95,959
Manufactures of Artificial silk n.o.p. -(Value only) -			
United Kingdom	-	-	46,541
United States	-	-	40,252
Belgium	-	-	8,261
France	-	-	4,624
Germany	-	-	25,837
Switzerland	-	-	537
Other Countries	-	-	3,661
Total	-	-	129,713
Total Artificial silk fibre and manufactures of, n.o.p. (value only)			
United Kingdom	-	-	2,512,449
United States	-	-	776,373
Belgium	-	-	240,954
France	-	-	242,340
Germany	-	-	304,729
Italy	-	-	75,191
Netherlands	-	-	721,772
Switzerland	-	-	541,225
Other Countries	-	-	85,383
Total	-	-	5,500,416

Exports. The exports of silk and artificial silk and their manufacture is shown by principal countries in table X, the total for the calendar year amounting to $127,574 of which silk from the cocoon totalled $93,928 and artificial silk $33,646.

Table X. Exports of Silk and Artificial Silk, 1926.

Articles exported by Countries.	Quantity	Value
Silk and manufactures of - (value only)		
United Kingdom		12,016
United States		6,565
Australia		8,633
Br. West Indies		10,223
Other British Possessions		8,883
China		5,816
Newfoundland		28,126
New Zealand		7,804
Other Countries		5,862
Total		93,928
Artificial silk and manufactures of - (value only)		
United Kingdom		702
United States		367
Other British Possessions		515
Newfoundland		2,570
New Zealand		1,774
Other Countries		27,718
Total		33,646

A P P E N D I X

Firms engaged in the Silk Industry in Canada - 1925

QUEBEC

Belding-Corticelli Limited,	Coaticook
Bruck Silk Mills Limited,	Cowansville
Louis Roessel & Co. Limited,	Drummondville
Belding-Corticelli Limited,	185 Shearer Street, Montreal
Independent Silk Limited,	360 St. Paul East, Montreal
Belding-Corticelli Limited,	St. Johns.
Carl Stohn of Canada Limited,	Granby
British American Silk Mills Limited,	835 St. James, Montreal

ONTARIO

Courtaulds Limited,	Cornwall
Riverside Silk Mills Limited,	Galt
Grouts' Limited,	St.Catharines
Dominion Silk Mills, Limited,	12 Mark Street, Toronto