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**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**  
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**REPORT**  
**ON THE**  
**ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY**  
**IN**  
**CANADA**  
**1942**

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OTTAWA  
1944

Price 25 cents

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY

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GENERAL INVESTIGATION

REPORT

ON THE

ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL SILK INDUSTRY

CANADA

1932

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
GENERAL MANUFACTURES BRANCH  
OTTAWA - CANADA

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ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

The silk industry in Canada is divided into two distinct branches - real silk and artificial silk - but, owing to the fact that the manufacture of the latter is largely concentrated in a few establishments, it is necessary to combine the statistics in order to avoid disclosing individual information. Production must be shown on rather broad lines, an example of which is the impossibility of giving a breakdown of synthetic filament yarns into the fundamental types of viscose and acetate.

In 1942 reports were received from thirty-three establishments, three more than in 1941. Twenty-three of these establishments were located in Quebec, nine in Ontario and one in New Brunswick.

Fabrics, yarns, threads and all other items manufactured in the artificial and real silk industry were produced to the value of \$48,055,557 in 1942, an increase of \$6,505,712 or 15.7 per cent as compared with the previous year. Employment was given to 11,088 persons in 1942; 948 or 9.3 per cent more than in 1941 and the payroll, \$13,039,579, represented an additional disbursement to salaried employees and wage-earners of \$2,033,809 or 18.5 per cent. Materials used cost \$18,339,710, an increase of \$2,483,868 or 15.7 per cent. Capital invested totalled \$50,279,255 and was greater by \$7,588,489 or 17.8 per cent than in 1941.

Fabrics woven from artificial silk yarn, and from artificial silk mixed with other fibres, represented the greater part of the production of the artificial and real silk industry. Fabric woven entirely from continuous filament artificial silk yarn totalled 51,177,690 yards valued at \$23,673,054 in 1942 and 50,086,500 yards with a value of \$22,376,916 in 1941. The use of spun rayon is increasing rapidly and fabrics spun from this type of artificial silk yarn were reported to the extent of 6,403,346 yards worth \$2,595,650 in 1942 as against only 3,517,122 yards valued at \$1,608,022 in 1941.

The vital need for woven fabric of real silk was reflected in the increase in the production of this item, despite the shortage of raw silk and silk yarn as materials for the textile industries. Production of silk fabric in 1942 was 1,711,176 yards worth \$1,498,949 as compared with 1,140,901 yards valued at \$873,890 in 1941. For details of products and of materials used, see tables 3 and 4.

The average monthly employment of wage-earners in 1942 was 10,029, November with 10,261 being the month of maximum employment, and May, with 9,849, the minimum. Tables 8 and 9 cover monthly employment of wage-earners, number of wage-earners in month of highest employment with their hours of work per week and average weekly earnings.

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1920 to 1942.

Year	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Em- plovees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross Value of Production
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
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
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
1928 .....	16	26,159,703	3,933	3,441,549	4,638,717	10,897,273
1929 .....	23	28,278,657	4,372	3,825,796	6,091,124	14,476,080
1930 .....	25	30,506,060	5,393	4,718,590	7,633,329	17,808,598
1931 .....	23	32,205,207	6,273	5,758,995	6,482,197	18,187,492
1932 .....	24	28,021,412	7,036	5,756,865	7,858,104	19,864,843
1933 .....	29	30,192,870	7,801	6,138,532	7,795,542	22,754,969
1934 .....	29	34,192,892	9,220	7,535,972	9,553,932	25,879,059
1935 .....	33	35,063,023	10,088	8,371,037	10,946,739	28,045,340
1936 .....	35	34,947,643	10,189	8,877,373	10,732,371	26,930,821
1937 .....	29	34,135,176	10,246	9,099,437	10,453,196	27,871,292
1938 .....	28	31,780,203	8,922	8,147,841	8,882,157	23,871,992
1939 .....	26	32,343,433	8,221	7,972,404	9,872,472	25,440,527
1940 .....	27	38,615,058	8,512	8,757,474	11,662,908	31,207,809
<u>1941(x)</u>						
CANADA ....	30	42,690,766	10,140	11,005,770	15,855,842	41,549,845
Quebec .....	22	27,819,663	7,287	7,617,203	12,601,666	29,788,071
Ontario .....	8	14,871,103	2,853	3,388,567	3,254,176	11,761,774
<u>1942</u>						
CANADA ....	33	50,279,255	11,088	13,039,579	18,339,710	48,055,557
Quebec .....	23	27,978,594	7,511	8,628,819	13,216,511	33,705,831
Ontario and New Brunswick .	10	22,300,661	3,577	4,410,760	5,123,199	14,349,726

(x) Three establishments with a combined gross value of production in excess of \$1,500,000 in 1940, and previously included under the real and artificial silk industry are now classified under the new primary textile industry "Narrow fabrics, laces, trimmings, etc."

Note: Profits or losses cannot be estimated from Census figures as no data are collected for certain expense items, such as interest, rent, depreciation, taxes, insurance, advertising, etc.

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1941 and 1942

Items	1 9 4 1	1 9 4 2	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting ..... No.	30	33	+ 3
Capital invested ..... \$	42,690,766	50,279,255	+ 7,588,489
Employees on salaries -			
Total ..... No.	873	1,059	+ 186
Male ..... No.	570	642	+ 72
Female ..... No.	303	417	+ 114
Total salaries ..... \$	1,977,921	2,513,821	+ 535,900
Employees on wages -			
Monthly average ..... No.	9,267	10,029	+ 762
Male ..... No.	5,975	5,976	+ 1
Female ..... No.	3,292	4,053	+ 761
Total wages ..... \$	9,027,849	10,525,758	+ 1,497,909
Power equipment -			
Units ..... No.	27,216	28,235	+ 1,019
Horsepower capacity ..... H.P.	28,593	37,870	+ 9,277
Cost of fuel and electricity ..... \$	1,483,599	1,601,270	+ 117,671
Cost of materials used ..... \$	15,855,842	18,339,710	+ 2,483,868
Gross value of production ..... \$	41,549,845	48,055,557	+ 6,505,712

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Table 3. - Production, 1941 and 1942.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	1941		1942	
		Quantity	Selling Value at Factory \$	Quantity	Selling Value at Factory \$
<b>Woven fabrics -</b>					
All real silk .....	Yd.	1,140,901	873,890	1,711,176	1,498,949
All continuous filament artificial silk .....	"	50,086,500	22,376,916	51,177,690	23,673,054
All spun rayon .....	"	3,517,122	1,608,022	6,403,346	2,595,650
All cotton .....	"	(1)	(1)	1,118,877	345,596
Real silk mixed with artificial silk .....	"	(1)	(1)	-	-
Continuous filament artificial silk and cotton mixtures .....	"	3,084,403	2,360,702	3,070,790	2,214,872
Other continuous filament artificial silk and mixtures .....	"	239,358	172,210	1,645,392	657,694
Spun rayon mixtures .....	"	1,313,401	554,859	2,905,476	1,607,058
All other woven fabrics ....	"	1,105,028	753,950	1,263,329	1,107,296
<b>Yarn and thread -</b>					
Real silk, including mixtures .....	Lb.	105,700	545,139	71,421	579,237
Artificial silk, singles ..	"	13,640,972	9,104,310	13,213,418	8,979,514
All other artificial silk, including mixtures .....	"	262,379	305,443	833,054	1,314,934
All other yarns and threads	"	160,376	330,726	248,979	364,276
Waste .....	Lb.	(2)	(2)	1,177,813	121,277
All other products .....	-	-	1,301,947	-	1,562,417
Custom and commission work .	-	-	1,261,731	-	1,433,733
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS .....</b>	-	-	<b>41,549,845</b>	-	<b>48,055,557</b>

(1) Included under "All other woven fabrics".

(2) Included under "All other products".

**General Note:** This report covers only those establishments which manufacture principally artificial and real silk fabrics, yarns, embroidery, thread, etc. and statistics for specific products are, therefore, not to be regarded as total production in Canada. For the total Canadian production reference should be made to the Appendix to "The Manufacturing Industries of Canada".

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

The weaving of artificial silk yarns into fabric is also carried on in cotton mills, and the production of specified fabrics in the Cotton Yarn and Cloth Industry during the year 1942 is given below:

Products	Lineal Yards	Selling value at factory
All continuous filament artificial silk -		
Piece dyed .....	3,165,102	999,824
Other .....	9,429,530	2,559,866
All spun rayon (including mixtures) ...	12,598,772	3,232,726
Cotton and continuous filament artificial silk mixed -		
Grey and bleached .....	116,434	34,686
Piece dyed, yarn and stock dyed .....	1,902,022	842,906

Table 4. - Materials Used, 1941 and 1942.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	1941		1942	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
Silk, raw .....	Pound	233,535	729,784	181,018	756,166
Rayon staple fibre .....	"	1,384,556	405,775	3,574,721	1,131,958
Other raw stock .....	"	(1)	(1)	-	1,839,097
Yarns -					
Silk, real .....	"	51,039	158,501	31,829	127,316
Artificial silk (continuous filament)	"	8,568,151	5,993,101	8,808,089	6,452,116
Spun silk .....	"	51,419	132,376	69,301	195,737
Spun rayon (including spun rayon mixtures ...	"	494,632	277,893	1,021,096	653,886
Cotton .....	"	1,104,969	599,069	1,526,479	854,046
All other .....	"	700,461	498,227	344,150	543,643
Chemicals and dyestuffs ...	-	-	3,479,431	-	2,928,733
All other materials and supplies .....	-	-	1,639,530	-	(2)1,265,607
Custom weaving, throwing, etc.	-	-	766,178	-	430,212
Dyeing and printing charges	-	-	912,371	-	897,873
Packing and shipping materials .....	-	-	263,106	-	260,320
<b>TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED</b>	-	-	<b>15,855,842</b>	-	<b>18,339,710</b>

(1) Included in "All other materials".

(2) Includes woven greige fabric, etc.

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1927 to 1942.

Year and Provinces	Fixed Capital	Working Capital			Total Capital
	Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc.	Inventory value of materials on hand, stock in process, finished products, fuel and miscellaneous supplies on hand	Operating Capital cash, bills, and accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, etc.		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Canada, 1927	13,348,083	2,600,098	6,379,637		22,327,818
" 1928	16,797,259	3,656,489	5,705,955		26,159,703
" 1929	17,795,190	4,360,403	6,123,064		28,278,657
" 1930	18,947,649	5,029,017	6,529,394		30,506,060
" 1931	21,754,419	4,810,674	5,640,114		32,205,207
" 1932	18,131,911	4,894,436	4,995,065		28,021,412
" 1933	18,844,213	4,060,272	7,288,385		30,192,870
" 1934	22,247,906	4,917,200	7,027,786		34,192,892
" 1935	21,444,973	5,757,971	7,860,079		35,063,023
" 1936	19,735,561	6,185,698	9,026,384		34,947,643
" 1937	19,489,080	6,957,891	7,688,205		34,135,176
" 1938	20,847,100	6,898,935	4,034,168		31,780,203
" 1939	21,010,070	6,009,278	5,324,085		32,343,433
" 1940	20,786,432	7,337,537	10,491,089		38,615,058
<u>1 9 4 1</u>					
CANADA	20,498,502	7,650,394	14,541,870		42,690,766
Quebec	13,741,644	6,046,402	8,031,617		27,819,663
Ontario	6,756,858	1,603,992	6,510,253		14,871,103
<u>1 9 4 2</u>					
CANADA	27,531,272	8,878,249 <sup>x</sup>	13,869,734		50,279,255
Quebec	13,379,897	6,151,517	8,447,180		27,978,594
Ontario and New Brunswick	14,151,375	2,726,732	5,422,554		22,300,661

x The Inventory Value of finished products on hand amounted to \$1,587,160.



ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Table 6. - Size of Establishments, 1941 and 1942.

Establishments having a production of -	Estab-lish-ments No.	Capital Invested \$	Em- ployees No.	Salaries and Wages \$	Cost of Materials Used \$	Gross Value of Production \$
<u>1941</u>						
\$20,000 to under \$50,000	2)					
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	)	203,711	125	110,186	33,321	223,615
\$100,000 to under \$500,000	2)					
\$500,000 to under \$1,000,000	13	2,366,968	1,058	990,294	1,786,511	3,346,301
\$1,000,000 and over	5	2,999,489	1,198	1,094,919	2,482,264	4,074,463
	8	37,120,598	7,759	8,810,371	11,553,746	33,905,466
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42,690,766</b>	<b>10,140</b>	<b>11,005,770</b>	<b>15,855,842</b>	<b>41,549,845</b>
<u>1942</u>						
\$5,000 to under \$25,000	1)					
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	1)					
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	)	254,315	98	110,597	30,778	227,573
\$100,000 to under \$500,000	3)					
\$500,000 to under \$1,000,000	11	1,790,586	1,026	1,068,310	1,695,270	3,437,874
\$1,000,000 and over	8	7,885,845	1,586	1,656,130	3,645,711	6,339,847
	9	40,348,509	8,378	10,204,542	12,967,951	38,050,263
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>50,279,255</b>	<b>11,088</b>	<b>13,039,579</b>	<b>18,339,710</b>	<b>48,055,557</b>

Table 7. - Employees, by sex and remuneration

	Salaried Employees		Wage-earners (Monthly Averages)			Total Employees Salaries and Wages		
	Fe- male	Total Salaries	Fe- male	Total Wages	Fe- male	Salaries and Wages		
	No.	\$	No.	\$	No.	No.	\$	
<u>1941</u>								
CANADA ...	570	303 1,977,921	5,975	3,292 9,027,849	6,545	3,595	11,005,770	
Quebec .....	415	223 1,407,851	4,667	1,982 6,209,352	5,082	2,205	7,617,203	
Ontario .....	155	80 570,070	1,308	1,310 2,818,497	1,463	1,390	3,388,567	
<u>1942</u>								
CANADA ...	642	417 2,513,821	5,976	4,053 10,525,758	6,618	4,470	13,039,579	
Quebec .....	452	276 1,767,928	4,310	2,473 6,860,891	4,762	2,749	8,628,819	
Ontario and New Bruns- wick .....	190	141 745,893	1,666	1,580 3,664,867	1,856	1,721	4,410,760	

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Table 8. - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1940, 1941 and 1942.

Months	1 9 4 0			1 9 4 1			1 9 4 2		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January ...	5,054	2,801	7,855	5,748	3,050	8,798	6,126	3,764	9,890
February ..	5,117	2,786	7,903	5,855	3,080	8,935	6,137	3,747	9,884
March .....	5,218	2,771	7,989	5,900	3,055	8,955	6,132	3,807	9,939
April .....	5,245	2,722	7,967	5,921	3,016	8,928	6,057	3,810	9,867
May .....	3,204	2,202	5,406	5,929	3,125	9,054	5,935	3,914	9,849
June .....	5,055	2,543	7,598	6,068	3,508	9,376	5,983	3,991	9,974
July .....	4,991	2,577	7,568	6,079	3,459	9,538	5,966	4,085	10,051
August ....	5,076	2,753	7,831	6,064	3,441	9,505	5,928	4,246	10,174
September .	5,135	2,748	7,883	6,079	3,555	9,634	5,908	4,287	10,195
October ...	5,200	2,836	8,036	6,043	3,524	9,567	5,890	4,308	10,198
November ..	5,359	2,859	8,218	6,031	3,499	9,530	5,907	4,354	10,261
December ..	5,426	2,815	8,241	5,972	3,405	9,377	5,757	4,334	10,091
MONTHLY AVERAGE ..	5,009	2,692	7,701	5,975	3,292	9,267	5,976	4,053	10,029

Table 9. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment with their Hours of Work per week and Average Weekly Earnings, 1941 and 1942.

Number of Hours Worked per Week	1 9 4 1		1 9 4 2	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.
30 hours or less .....	237	193	191	195
31 - 43 hours .....	436	819	466	999
44 hours .....	136	78	111	204
45 - 47 hours .....	269	425	347	452
48 hours .....	782	438	893	603
49 - 50 hours .....	1,576	854	1,651	1,334
51 - 54 hours .....	728	264	645	308
55 hours .....	566	244	412	422
56 - 64 hours .....	1,146	331	1,022	102
65 hours and over .....	273	1	333	-
Average hours per week .....	50.9	46.2	50.8	45.9
Average weekly earnings .....	\$22.83	\$13.91	\$25.75	\$15.44

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Table 10. - Power Equipment, 1941 and 1942.

Classes of Power	1941		1942	
	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity	Number of Units	Manufacturers' Rating of Horsepower Capacity
Steam engines and steam turbines -				
In use .....	14	4,070	22	5,580
Idle .....	2	385	1	350
Diesel engines .....	-	-	1	800
Gasoline, gas and oil engines other than diesel -				
In use .....	1	35	2	45
Idle .....	1	125	3	260
Hydraulic turbines or water wheels-				
In use .....	-	-	4	3,500
Idle .....	-	-	3	1,000
Electric motors operated by purchased power -				
In use .....	27,032	23,723	25,172	25,473
Idle .....	166	255	3,027	862
TOTAL POWER AVAILABLE FOR MANUFACTURING PURPOSES .....	27,216	28,593	28,235	37,870
Electric motors operated by power generated in the establishment .....	1,127	2,204	1,903	9,252
Total Electric Motors .....	28,325	26,182	30,102	35,587
Boiler installation -				
In use .....	37	22,072	43	12,018
Idle .....	2	95	3	1,360

Table 11. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1941 and 1942.

Kind of Fuel	Unit of Measure	1941		1942	
		Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
Coal -	Ton				
Bituminous .....	(2000 lb.)	70,214	487,376	97,638	778,338
Anthracite .....	"	12,273	74,666	16,439	116,450
Gasoline + .....	Imp. Gal.	21,296	5,834	24,291	7,320
Kerosene .....	"	150	28	225	39
Fuel or diesel oil .....	" "	4,156,295	275,850	764,590	57,447
Wood .....	Cord	175	525	293	890
Gas, manufactured .....	M cu.ft.	215	258	190	203
Other .....	-	-	1,200	-	1,200
TOTAL COST OF FUEL .....	-	-	845,737	-	961,887
Electricity purchased including service charges .	Kw.H.	109,938,087	637,862	103,680,683	639,383
TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY .....	-	-	1,483,599	-	1,601,270

+ Gasoline used includes that used in cars and trucks.

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Table 12. - Mechanical Equipment, 1941 and 1942.

	1 9 4 1	1 9 4 2
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
Spindles -		
Throwing .....	89,690	90,866
Winding .....	35,077	32,863
Doubling and twisting .....	53,330	52,588
Spinning .....	68,914	146,495
Re-drawing .....	9,994	10,994
Reeling .....	368	368
Cone winding .....	1,936	8,077
Quill winding .....	5,284	6,310
Warpers .....	122	139
Slashers .....	25	31
Looms - 40 inches and under .....	110	94
41 - 48 inches .....	721	736
49 - 56 inches .....	2,728	2,915
57 inches and over .....	942	1,127
Velvet .....	24	44
Other .....	-	338
Jacquard machines in place on the above looms	201	177
Dobbies in place on the above looms .....	2,913	3,387
Knitting machines .....	110	165

ARTIFICIAL AND REAL SILK INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942.

Firms Engaged in Manufacture of Artificial and Real Silk in Canada, 1942.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Canadian Cottons Limited (St. Croix Mill) Milltown, N. B.

QUEBEC

Acton Vale Silk Mills Ltd.	Acton Vale, Que.
Laurentian Silk Mills Ltd.	Cap de la Madeleine, Que.
Associated Textiles of Canada Ltd., - Eastern Division	Water St., Coaticook, Que.
Bruck Silk Mills Ltd.	Cowansville, Que.
Canadian Celanese Ltd.	Drummondville, Que.
Louis Roessel & Co. Ltd.	628 Heriot St., Drummondville, Que.
British American Silk Mills Ltd.	Granby, Que.
Carl Stohn of Canada, Ltd.	St. Charles & Racine Sts., Granby, Que.
Iberville Drapery Mills Ltd.	61 - 4th Ave., Iberville, Que.
Associated Textiles of Canada Ltd.	Louisville, Que.
L & L Textiles Ltd.	Magog, Que.
M. E. Binz Co. Ltd.	Montmagny, Que.
"Aux Tissages Francais" Ltee.	445 St. Helen St., Montreal, Que.
Dominion Thread Mills	52 Nazareth St., Montreal, Que.
Dionne Spinning Mills Co.	St. George West, Que.
Canadian Silk Textiles Reg'd.	St. Hyacinthe, Que.
Consolidated Textiles Ltd.	St. Hyacinthe, Que.
Duplex Textiles Ltd.	St. Hyacinthe, Que.
Belding-Corticelli Ltd.	St. Johns, Que.
J. Bte. Martin Co. Ltd.	445 St. James St., St. Johns, Que.
Dominion Spinners Ltd.	130 Gregoire St., St. Johns, Que.
Sutton Silk Mills Ltd.	Sutton, Que.
Valleyfield Silk Mills Ltd.	Valleyfield, Que.

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Slingsby Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	Grand River Ave., Brantford, Ont.
Courtaulds (Canada) Ltd.	Cornwall, Ont.
Newlands & Co. Ltd.,	Ainslie St. S., Galt, Ontario.
Canadian Industries Ltd.	Kingston, Ont.
Riverside Silk Mills Ltd.	Melville St., Galt, Ont.
Pine Silk Mills Ltd.	Midland, Ont.
Dumo Textile Co. Ltd.	Picton, Ont.
Dominion Silk Mills Ltd.	2 Mark St., Toronto 2, Ont.
Grouts Ltd.	Welland Ave., St. Catharines, Ont.

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