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# CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

Mars J

REPORT

ON THE

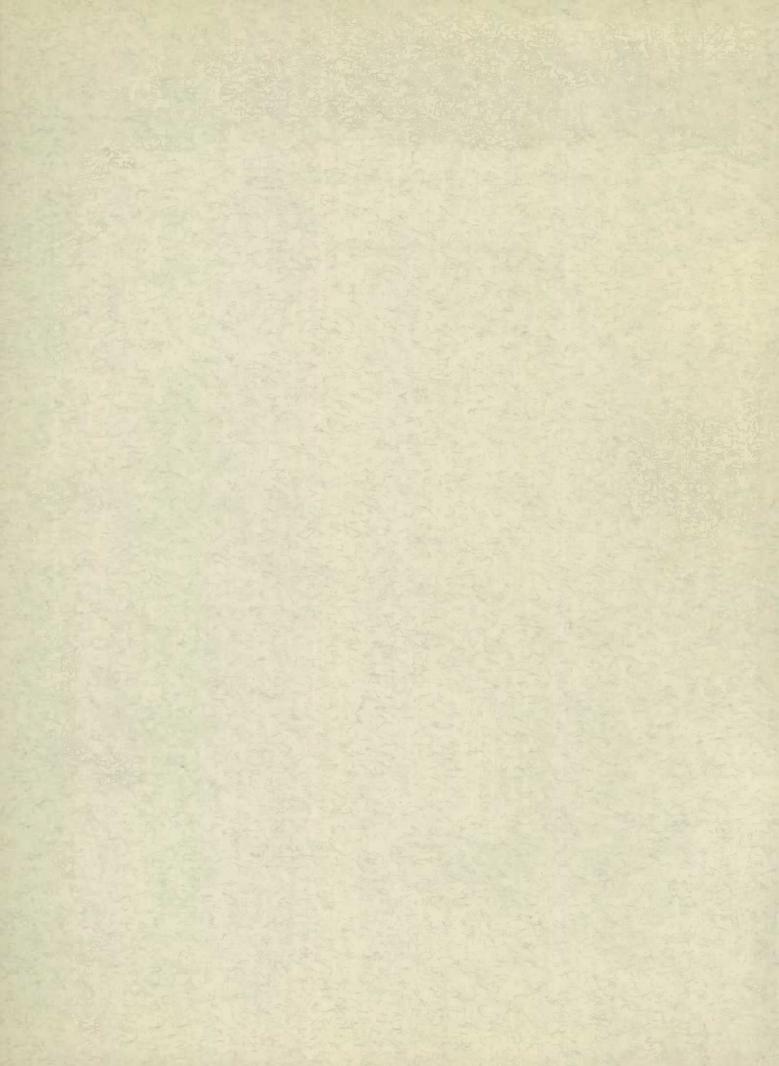
#### CORSET INDUSTRY

IN

CANADA

1931

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

Dominion Statistician: Acting Chief, Census of Industry: A. Cohen, B. Com.

R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon.), F.R.S.C.

#### THE CORSET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

In 1931 there were twenty establishments engaged in the manufacture of corsets and kindred articles which was an increase of one over the preceding year. Fourteen of these were located in Ontario and all of the remaining six in Quebec.

In spite of depressed conditions this industry held its own comparatively well in 1931. On referring to table 2 it will be observed there were increases in the number of establishments, the total number of employees and the amount of salaries and wages paid them. The amount of capital investment, cost of raw materials, value of production and value added by manufacture all show small recessions from 1930.

Gross value of production amounted to \$4,187,647 in 1931, a decline of \$391,200 or almost 9 per cent. The amount of capital investment likewise declined from \$5,277,642 in 1930 to \$4,812,464, a loss of \$465,173 in 1931. The number of employees, salaried and wage-earners, showed an increase of 26, the number being 1,482 in 1930 and 1,508 in 1931. Salaries and wages paid amounted to \$1,097,037 and \$1,124,990 in 1930 and 1931 respectively, an increase in 1931 of \$27,953. The cost of raw materials dropped from \$2,221,313 in 1930 to \$2,054,461, a decline of \$166,852 or about 8 per cent in 1931, and the value added by manufacture declined from \$2,357,534 in 1930 to \$2,133,186 in 1931, a decrease of \$224,348 or almost 10 per cent.

Imports of fully manufactured corsets and materials used by this industry were valued at \$110,461 in 1931 compared with a value of \$228,304 in 1930. Corsets was the largest single item imported and accounted for \$44,931 of the total amount. The only articles exported were corsets and brassieres and their value was \$62,261 in 1931 as against a value of \$108,496 in 1930.

The following tables in the report show fully the activities of this industry in 1931 and afford a comparison with the previous year.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1922-1931

		Table	1 111	Incipal boats	DOTOD, TORR	1001	
	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross value of Products	Value added by manu- facture
	No	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$
1922	NO	*	2400		*	*	
Canada Quebec Ontario	16 7 9	6,021,963 4,524,068 1,497,895	1,733 1,168 565	1,246,321 722,416 523,905	2,634,153 1,897,698 736,455	5,284,986 3,407,946 1,877,040	2,650,833 1,510,248 1,140,585
1923							
Canada Quebec Ontario	17 6 11	6,155,454 4,890,739 1,264,715	1,604 1,080 524	1,263,755 758,982 504,773	2,309,631 1,582,509 727,122	4,887,535 3,136,829 1,750,706	2,577,904 1,554,320 1,023,584
1924							
Canada Quebec Ontario	16 6 10	4,108,057 2,806,748 1,301,309	1,397 954 443	978,687 542,368 436,319	2,134,564 1,396,381 738,183	4,038,985 2,498,678 1,540,307	1,904,421 1,102,297 802,124
1925							
Ganada Quehec Ontario	17 6 11	4,224,722 2,986,879 1,237,843	1,461 1,021 440	1,110,282 637,453 472,829	2,330,165 1,682,223 647,942	4,314,309 2,829,107 1,485,202	1,984,144 1,146,884 837,260
1926							
Canada Quebec	16 5 11	4,129,882 2,169,681 1,960,201	1,307 741 566	1,060,989 499,548 561,441	2,241,554 1,304,722 936,832	4,048,926 2,106,337 1,942,589	1,807,372 801,615 1,005,757
1927							
Canada Quebec Ontario	16 5 11	4,806,157 2,964,118 1,842,039	1,351 905 446	1,009,495 546,716 462,779	1,925,962 1,276,742 649,220	3,791,748 2,234,840 1,556,908	1,865,786 958,098 907,688
1928							
Canada Quebec Ontario	16 5 11	4,917,408 2,913,506 2,003,902	1,418 910 508	1,124,284 624,978 499,306	2,055,416 1,202,876 852,540	4,246,948 2,394,263 1,852,685	2,191,532 1,191,387 1,000,145
1929							
Canada Quebec Ontario	17 5 12	5,327,991 2,956,039 2,371,952	1,405 903 502	1,084,231 592,531 491,700	2,098,351 1,306,946 791,405	4,219,019 2,422,397 1,796,622	2,120,668 1,115,451 1,005,217

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1922-1931. - Cont'd.

	Estab- lish- ments	Capital Invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and Wages	Cost of Materials Used	Gross value of Products	Value added by Manu- facture
1930	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Canada Quebec Ontario	19 6 13	5,277,642 3,308,438 1,969,204	1,482 847 635	1,097,037 502,619 594,418	2,221,313 1,265,666 955,647	4,578,847 2,467,257 2,111,590	2,357,534 1,201,591 1,155,943
1931							
Canada Quebec Ontario	20 6 14	4,812,464 2,925,195 1,887,269	1,508 862 646	1,124,990 489,947 635,043	2,054,461 1,186,663 867,798	4,187,647 2,059,833 2,127,814	2,133,186 873,170 1,260,016

Table 2. - Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1930 and 1931.

Items		1930	1931		Increase Decrease
Establishments reporting	No.	19	20	+	1
Capital invested	\$	5,277,642	4,812,464		465,178
Employees on salaries -  Male  Female  Salaries	No.	105 135 284,790	130 179 374,000	+++	25 44 89,210
Employees on wages -  Male	No.	98 1,144 812,247	88 1,111 750,990	1 1 3	10 33 61,257
Cost of fuel and electricity	\$	16,078	17,365	+	1,287
Power equipment - Units		112 406	116 914	++	4 508
Cost of materials	\$	2,221,313	2,054,461	-	166,852
Gross value of products	\$	4,578,847	4,187,647		391,200
Value added by manufacture	\$	2,357,534	2,133,186		224,348

#### Production

The quantity and value of all products of this industry is furnished in table 3 for the years 1930 and 1931. Value of production declined from \$4,578,847 in 1930 to \$4,187,647 in 1931 a loss of \$391,200 or almost 9 per cent. The principal single item of production in both years was corsets of all materials of which there were produced 148,682 dozen valued at \$2,403,155 in 1930 and 143,991 dozen valued at \$2,220,646 in 1931. Combination garments of various materials numbered 75,740 dozen valued at \$1,327,065 in 1930 and 72,763 dozen worth \$1,208,086 in 1931. Of bandeaux and brassieres 92,221 dozen were produced in 1930 with a value of \$556,596 and in 1931 98,930 dozen were produced valued at \$497,097.

Of the total production of \$4,187,647 in 1931, Ontario with fourteen establishments contributed \$2,127,814 and Quebec with six had an output valued at \$2,059,833.

An effort was made in 1931 to have specified the principal fabrics used in the manufacture of corsets and combination garments. While some success was attained along these lines the greater proportion were simply reported as "corsets" and "combination garments" irrespective of their component materials.

Table 3. - Production 1930 and 1931.

	Table 3 Production 1930 and 1931.							
		1 9	3 0	1 9	3 1			
	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory		Cost Value at Factory			
			\$		\$			
Corsets -								
Cotton	Doz.	- 3	- 1	32,408	502,785			
Silk and satin	n	-	· pan	3,824	61,096			
Artificial silk and mixtures	11	-		5,783	152,983			
Not specified	H	148,682	2,403,155	101,976	1,503,782			
Combination garments -								
Cotton	Doz.	-		7,617	212,129			
Silk and satin	11	_		2,513	43,198			
Artificial silk and mixtures	ET .			13,876	323,784			
Other and not specified	18	_	_	48,757	628,975			
Not specified	11	75,740	1,327,065	-				
Children's waists	Doz.	8,902	29,750	6,025	18,821			
Bandeaux and brassieres -								
Cotton	Doz.	_		19,033	121,150			
Silk and satin	II	_	_	1,980	13,000			
Artificial silk and mixtures	11	-		9,534	63,198			
Not specified	11	92,221	556,596	68,383	299,749			
Underwear, all kinds	Doz.	_ = 1		3,135	44,818			
Supporters, girdles and								
suspenders	Doz.	que	7-14	12,023	51,788			
All other products			262,281		146,391			
TOTAL	77.30	14954	4,578,847		4,187,647			

#### Capital Investment

The capital invested in the Corset Industry is shown in table 4 by provinces, for the calendar years 1927 to 1931 inclusive. It is also sub-divided into fixed capital and different branches of working capital, and can be observed in detail in the table.

The total amount of capital invested in 1931 was \$4,812,464 which represented a decline of \$465,178 from the 1930 investment of \$5,277,642. Of this amount \$2,925,195 was contributed by the province of Quebec and \$1,887,269 by the province of Ontario.

Table 4. - The Corset Industry - Capital Invested, 1927-1931.

	Fixed Capital.	Wo	rking Capita	al	
Year and Provinces	Land, Buildings, Fixtures, Machinery and Tools	Materials on Hand, Stocks in process, fuel and mis- cellaneous supplies, etc.	Inventory Value of Finished Products	Cash, bills and accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, etc.	Total Capital
1927	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Canada	1,296,761 825,741 471,020	1,179, 704, 475,	240	2,329,886 1,434,137 895,749	4,806,157 2,964,118 1,842,039
1928					
Canada	1,248,304 770,098 478,206	1,260, 767, 492,	654	2,408,853 1,375,754 1,033,099	4,917,408 2,913,506 2,003,902
1929 Canada	1,334,252 887,858 446,394	1,234, 786, 447,	619	2,759,683 1,281,562 1,478,121	5,327,991 2,956,039 2,371,952
1 9 3 0 Canada	1,715,402 945,385 770,017	1,357, 798, 558,	663	2,204,693 1,564,390 640,303	5,277,642 3,308,438 1,969,204
1931 Canada	1,772,949 946,487 826,462	780,817 455,930 324,887	389,000 232,944 156,056	1,869,698 1,289,834 579,864	4,812,464 2,925,195 1,887,269

#### Materials Used.

The quantity and value of the materials used in the industry during the calendar years 1930 and 1931 is shown in detail in table 5. The total cost in 1931 was \$2,054,461, a decrease of \$166,852 from the 1930 cost amounting to \$2,221,313. cost of materials used in the province of Quebec amounted to \$1,186,663, while in Ontario it was \$867,798.

Table 5	- Material:	s Used, Caler	ndar Years 193	30 and 1931.	
		1 9	3 0	1 9	3 1
	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory	Quantity	Cost Value at Factory
			\$		\$
Cotton and coutil	Yards	1,254,620	349,415	1,236,966	354,410
Silk and satin	tt		-	364,268	177,641
Artificial silk	11		-	139,528	77,112
Sateen and brocade	f f	-	-	189,021	160,012
All other fabrics	11	1,209,207	<i>f</i> 575,070	427,607	126,164
Elastic webbing	H	2,027,683	471,533	2,630,611	441,515
Lace, ribbon and embroidery	-	-	43,206	_	37,228
Tapes and binding	Gross	57,628	88,571	65,628	94,008
Corset laces	11	13,062	26,240	6,974	19,763
Steels	Lb.	62,549	20,311		21,020
Boning wire	-	-	73,270		76,334
Trimmings	-	man	15,189	-	20,524
Buttons	Gross	_		37,873	15,100
Eyelets, clasps and loops	_		60,932		68,420
Garter parts	_	-	54,895	- "	61,092
Thread	-		34,940	-	32,309
All other materials	Bank Billion	-	407,741	les	226,750
Packing and shipping					
materials			unds	(04)	45,059
TOTAL			2,221,313		2,054,461

<sup>/</sup> Includes woollen, silk, sateen and brocade

#### Size of Establishments.

In view of the tendency towards concentration in industrial enterprise, a series of three tables has been prepared presenting the size of establishments in the Corset Industry, measured by the gross value of production, the value of the capital investment and the number of persons employed, all within certain specified groupings, for the years 1930 and 1931. These tables also indicate the movement of production, capital and employment within the industry

In 1931 there was an increase of one in the number of establishments reporting. Despite this increase, however, the average value of production declined fro \$240,992 in 1930 to \$209,382 in 1931, an average loss per establishment of \$31,610.

#### Size of Establishments - Continued.

It will be noted that in this year, nine establishments had a gross production of \$3,445,806 or 82.3 per cent of the total.

The average capital investment in 1931 was \$240,623, a decrease of \$37,148 from the 1930 average of \$277,771. Here again concentration is marked, seven establishments having a total capital investment of \$3,968,491 or 82.5 per cent of the total amount...

While the total number of wage-earners increased from 1,482 in 1930 to 1,508 in 1931, the average per establishment dropped from 78.0 to 75.4. In 1931 five establishments furnished employment to 922 wage-earners, which was over sixty-one per cent of the total number employed.

Table 6. - Size of Establishments.

Ta	ble 6	Size of Es	tablishments	•		
		1930			1931	
stablishments having a Production of	No. of Estab- lish- ments	Total Production	Average per Estab- lishment	No. of Estab- lish- ments	Total Produc- tion	Average per Estab- lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000 \$50,000 to under \$100,000. \$100,000 to under \$200,000 \$200,000 and over	4 3 3 9	14,569 201,475 424,165 3,938,638	3,642 67,158 141,388 437,627	5 2 4 9	52,115 148,484 541,242 3,445,806	10,423 74,242 135,310 382,867
TOTAL	19	4,578,847	240,992	20	4,187,647	209,382
Establishments having a capital of	No. of Estab- lish- ments	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab- lishment	No. of Estab- lish- ments	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab lishment
	No	\$	\$	No	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	6 3 3 7	125,399 207,400 447,629 4,497,214	20,900 69,133 149,210 642,459	6 3 4 7	86,129 191,502 566,342 3,968,491	14,355 63,834 141,585 566,927
TOTAL	19	5,277,642	277,771	20	4,812,464	240,623
Establishments having an employment of	No. of Estab- lish- ments	Total Employees	Average per Estab- lishment	No. of Estab- lish- ments	Total Employees	Average per Estab lishment
Less than 20 persons	No. 5 5 4 4 5	No. 38 166 358 920	No. 7.6 33.2 89.5 184.0	No. 6 3 6 5	No. 49 82 455 922	No. 8.1 27.3 75.8 184.4
TOTAL	19	1,482	78.0	20	1,508	75.4

#### Employees, Salaries and Wages.

The number of persons employed in the Corset Industry in 1930 and 1931 is shown in table 7, by classes of employment, sex of employees and the amount of salaries and wages paid them. The total employees in all classes rose from 1,482 in 1930 to 1,508 in 1931, an increase of 26. The total expenditure for salaries and wages was \$1,097,037 in 1930 and \$1,124,990 in 1931, an increase in 1931 of \$27,953. These figures do not include the number of outside piece-workers and the amount paid them. Table 7 shows three of these workers in 1930 who were paid \$470. There were none reported in 1931.

Table 7. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1930-1931.

			1930	1931
Salaried employees -	Total	No.	240	309
	Male	II	105	130
	Female	11	135	179
	Total salaries	\$	284,790	374,000
Wage-earners (average number) -	Total	No.	1,242	1,199
	Male	11	98	88
	Female	11	1,144	1,111
	Total wages	\$	812,247	750,990
Outside piece-workers -	Female	No.	3	_
	Amount paid	\$	470	-
Total employees (including	Total	No.	1,485	1,508
outside piece-workers)	Male	-11	203	218
	Female	11	1,282	1,290
	Salaries and wages .	\$	1,097,507	1,124,990

Table 8. - The Corset Industry - Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1930 and 1931.

		1930	17.	1931			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
January	95	1,085	1,180	85	1,072	1,157	
February	96	1,130	1,226	89	1,122	1,211	
March	96	1,149	1,245	89	1,145	1,234	
April	96	1,160	1,256	88	1,138	1,226	
lay	97	1,147	1,244	89	1,122	1,211	
June	97	1,132	1,229	89	1,117	1,206	
July	97	1,133	1,230	90	1,099	1,189	
lugust	100	1,165	1,265	90	1,125	1,215	
September	98	1,157	1,255	89	1,119	1,208	
otober	100	1,155	1,255	89	1,115	1,204	
Wovember	98	1,136	1,234	88	1,097	1,185	
December	98	1,1.08	1,206	87	1,044	1,131	
TOTAL	1,168	13,657	14,825	1,062	13,315	14,377	
Average number employed							
du ing the year	98	1,144		88	1,111	_	

# Employees, Salaries and Wages - Continued.

Table 9. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment whose Regular Hours of Work in 1931 were:-

No. of Hours	No. of Employees	No. of Hours	No. of Employees
40 hours or less	1	51-53 hours	101
41-43 hours	80	54 hours	
44 hours	776	55 hours	74
45-47 hours		56-59 hours	
48 hours	The state of the s	60 hours	10 m = 10 m
49-50 hours	245	Over 60 hours	

The above does not include overtime.

Table 10. - Power Equipment, Calendar Years 1930 and 1931.

	1	9 3 0	1	9 3 1
Description	Number of Units	Total H. P. According to Manufacturers' Rating	Number of Units	Total H. P. according to Manufacturers!
Steam engines and steam turbines	1	100	1	100
Electric motors:- Operated by purchased power	111	306	114	784
T O T A L	112	406	115	884
Operated by power generated by the establishment			1	30
Total electric notors	111	306	115	814
Boilers installed	3	250	2	150

Table 11. - Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, Calendar Years 1930 and 1931.

		193	0	193	1
Kind of Fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value	Quantity	Cost Value
Coal:	Ton		\$		\$
Bituminous	(2000 Lbs.)	849 104	6,965 1,268	<b>89</b> 1 99	6,396 1,206
Coke (for fuel only)	rr -	32	288	3	36
Gasoline	Gal. (Imp.)	5	1	5	2
Kerosene or coal oil	11	40	9	40	9
Fuel or diesel oil	11		1,492	9,472	905
Gas: Manufactured Natural	M cu. ft.	19	31 61	-	29 40
Total Cost of Fuel	- 10		10,115	_	8,623
Electricity purchased (in- cluding service charges)	K. W. H.		5,963	361,384	8,742
Total Cost of Fuel and electricity	-		16,078		17,365

Table 12. - Imports of Partly Manufactured Materials and Finished Products, 1930 and 1931 by Principal Countries.

Articles Imported	1930		1931	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Noven fabrics, wholly of cotton,		\$		\$
imported by manufacturers of corsets for their exclusive use -				
United Kingdom	- 20	1,935		40
United States	dans .	62,800		
Total		64,735	11.4-14.	

Table 12. - Imports of Partly Manufactured Materials and Finished Products, 1930 and 1931 by Principal Countries - Continued.

	1930		1931	
Articles Imported	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		\$		\$
orset clasps, busks, blanks, steels, and covered corset wires tipped or untipped, reed, rattan or horn, covered —				
United Kingdom	-	1,734	7	7,660
United States		19,485	-	12,252
Other Countries	_	415	-	52
Total	dan.	21,634	-	19,964
letal tips, studs and eyes for use exclusively in the manufacture of corset clasps and corset wires - United States		8,456		8,176
				0.170
Total	-	8,456		8,176
Sheets, hoop, bend or strip for use in the manufacture of corset steels -	Cwt.		Cwt.	
United Kingdom	764	2,327	69	547
United States	5,906	49,563	5,175	35,340
Other Countries	659	2,079	505	1,503
Total	7,329	53,969	5,749	37,390
orsets of cotton -	No.		Lbs.	
United Kingdom	6	<b>6</b> 8	6	27
United States	2,343	5,257	14,358	40,900
France	181	523	401	1,391
Total	2,530	5,848	14,765	42,318
orsets of silk -	No.		No.	
United Kingdom	24	51	9	92
United States	20,426	65,412	527	1,645
France	1,716	8,094	197	876
Other Countries	30	105		_
Total	22,196	73,662	733	2,613

Table 12. - Imports of Partly Manufactured Materials and Finished Products, 1930 and 1931 by Principal Countries - Concluded.

Articles Imported	1930		1931	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		\$		\$
Summary of Imports of Partly Manu-				
factured Materials and Finished				
Merchandise 1930 and 1931 by				
Principal Countries -				
United Kingdom	-	6,115	-	8,326
United States		210,973	522 - 1	98,313
France	in the	8,617	- 1	2,267
Other Countries	-	2,599	-	1,555
TOTAL IMPORTS		228,304	and .	110,461

Table 13. - Exports of Corsets in 1930 and 1931 by Principal Countries.

Articles Exported	1930		1931	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Corsets and Brassieres -	No.	\$	No.	\$
United Kingdom	4,072	10,229	2,914	6,097
United States	75	109	21	32
Newfoundland	19,839	15,095	14,258	11,321
New Zealand	63,802	75,539	41,855	42,618
Other Countries	3,656	7,524	1,138	2,193
TOTAL EXPORTS	91,444	108,496	60,186	62,261

# APPENDIX "A" Corset Manufacturers Operating in Canada, 1931.

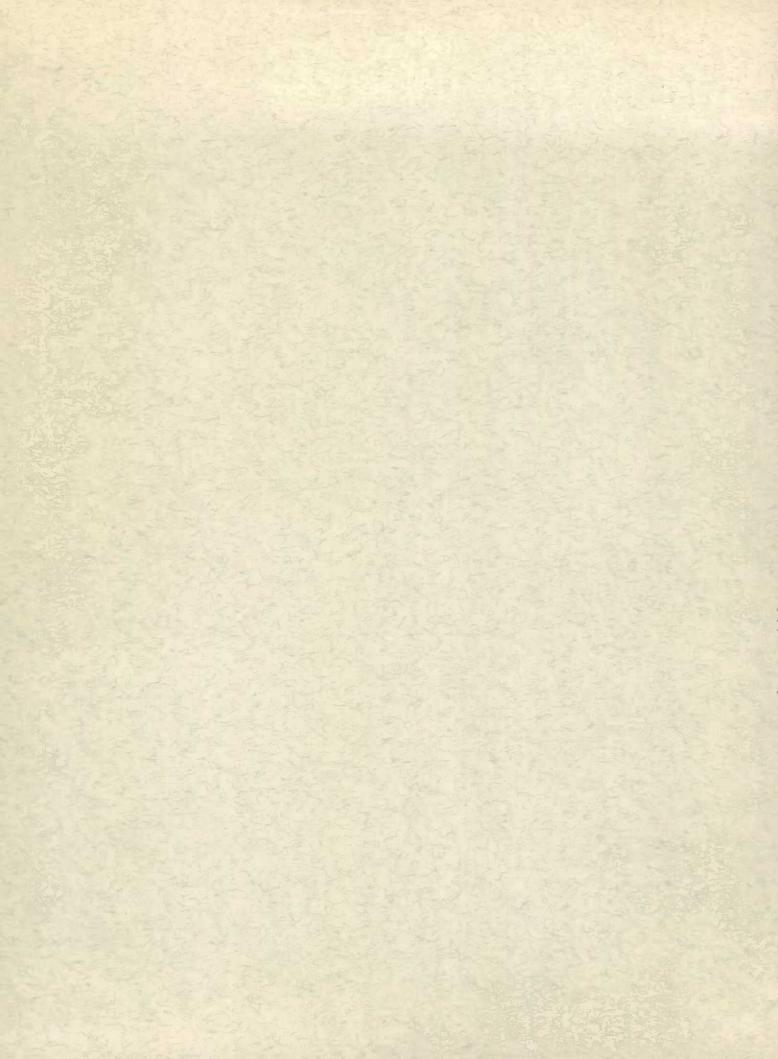
#### Name

The E. T. Corset Co. Ltd.
Dominion Corset Co.
C. J. Grenier & Cie
Parisian Corset Mfg. Co. Ltd. and )
Natures Rival Co. of Canada, Ltd.)
Perfection Corset Co. Ltd.
Spencer Corset (Canada) Ltd.
F. J. Allward Co. Ltd.
Bias Corsets Ltd.
Eisman and Company Ltd.
Kops Bros. Limited
Lady Mac of Canada Ltd.
The NuBine Corset Co. of Canada, Ltd.
Spirella Company of Canada, Ltd.
M. J. Walsh (Miss)
Woolnough Corsetiers
The Canadian H. W. Gossard Co. Ltd.
Modart of Canada, Limited
The T. Eaton Co. Limited
Williams and Fisher, Limited
Gregian Health Corset Co.

#### Location

46 Laframboise St., St. Hyacinthe, Que. 45 Dorchester St., Quebec, Que. 4835 Colonial Ave., Montreal, Que.

599 St. Valier Street, Quebec, Que.
38 rue Champlain, Quebec, Que.
Rock Island, Quebec.
600 Bay Street, Toronto 2, Ontario.
41 Britain Street, Toronto 2, Ontario.
24 Spadina Avenue, Toronto 2, Ontario.
559 College Street, Toronto, Ontario.
91 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ontario.
64 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, Ontario.
1651 River Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario.
601 College Street, Toronto 4, Ontario.
28 Bloor Street West, Toronto 2, Ontario.
366 West Adelaide Street, Toronto 2, Ontario.
341 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario.
190 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario.
260 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.



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