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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

FOREST PRODUCTS BRANCH

PRELIMINARY REPORT

on the

FURNITURE INDUSTRY

in

CANADA

1924-25

(Subject to revision on further examination of individual reports)

Published by authority of the Hon. James Malcolm, M. P.,

Minister of Trade and Commerce

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY - FOREST PRODUCTS BRANCH.

OTTAWA, CANADA

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Forest Products Statistics: R. G. Lewis, B.Sc.F.

THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY IN CANADA
1924 and 1925.

Ottawa, February, 1927.- A report on the furniture industry for 1924 and 1925 has just been issued by the Forest Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is one of the most important wood-using industries in Canada and includes the manufacture of household furniture, upholstering and repair establishments, firms manufacturing store and office furniture and fixtures and those making wicker furniture and wickerware. The total gross value of the products of this group of industries in 1925 was \$27,110,462 as compared to \$25,843,620 in 1924. This includes the products of factories engaged primarily in the manufacture of furniture and represents the greater part of these products made in Canada. There are however a number of other woodworking factories that manufacture furniture and do cabinetwork as a side line but which are included under some other class of manufacturing industry.

The furniture industry in Canada is at present centred in southwestern Ontario. Out of a total of 336 establishments 208 were located in Ontario in 1925, 63 were in Quebec, 25 in British Columbia, 17 in Manitoba and the remainder scattered among the other five provinces. The total capital invested in the industry in 1925 was \$32,864,975 as compared to \$37,077,005 in 1924. The manufacture of furniture gave employment to 8,399 male and 588 female workers in 1925, paying a total of \$9,454,152 in wages and salaries. Fuel used in 1925 was valued at \$368,143 and a total of 18,556 horse power was used in the process of manufacture.

Tables 1 to 6 accompanying this report give further details concerning the principal statistics, distribution of establishments, capital, employees, fuel used and power employed in this industry in 1924 and 1925.

Tables 7 and 8 cover the materials used and products manufactured in furniture factories.

The most important material used in the manufacture of furniture is sawn lumber. The hardwood used is for the most part imported from the United States and tropical sources while the softwoods are chiefly the product of Canadian saw-mills. The total value of materials of all kinds in 1925 was \$9,928,696. Softwood lumber amounted to 20,583 M ft.b.m. valued at \$694,665, hardwood lumber to 46,038 M ft. valued at \$2,787,893 and veneer and ply-wood to 13,179 M surf.ft. valued at \$491,831. Textile coverings, hardware paints, oils, varnishes, leather etc. were among the more important of the remaining items which were valued at \$5,954,307.

The furniture manufactured by this industry consists chiefly of household furniture which in 1925 was valued at \$14,747,955 and was made up of bedroom, dining room, miscellaneous household furniture, parlour and kitchen furniture in the order of importance named. Upholstering and mattresses were valued at \$3,363,345 and the next most important items were those of office and store furniture and fixtures at \$2,709,389; school, lodge, church and theatre furniture at \$948,936; radio, gramophone, and player roll cabinets at \$885,214; and reed, wicker and rattan furniture at \$621,369. Other less important classes were miscellaneous cabinetwork, baby carriages, furniture frames and refrigerators. A total of \$739,865 was received for repair work and other miscellaneous products of all classes amounted to \$2,351,778.

The market for Canadian furniture is chiefly domestic as shown by the fact that only \$405,270 worth of Canadian-made furniture was exported during the fiscal year ending March, 1926 while the total annual production averaged over twenty-seven million dollars. The imports of furniture amounted to \$1,291,183 during the fiscal year 1925-1926.

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THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY.

Table I - Principal Statistics - 1924 and 1925.

Items		1924	1925
Establishments	No.	371	336
Capital invested	\$	32,077,005	32,864,975
Employees on salaries	No.	1,159	940
Salaries paid	\$	2,188,612	1,854,740
Employees on wages	No.	8,028	8,047
Wages paid	\$	7,620,102	7,599,412
Fuel used	\$	374,133	368,143
Power employed	H.P.	18,759	18,556
Cost of materials	\$	9,324,456	9,928,696
Value of products	\$	25,243,620	27,110,462

Table 2.- Distribution of establishments by provinces, 1924 - 1925.

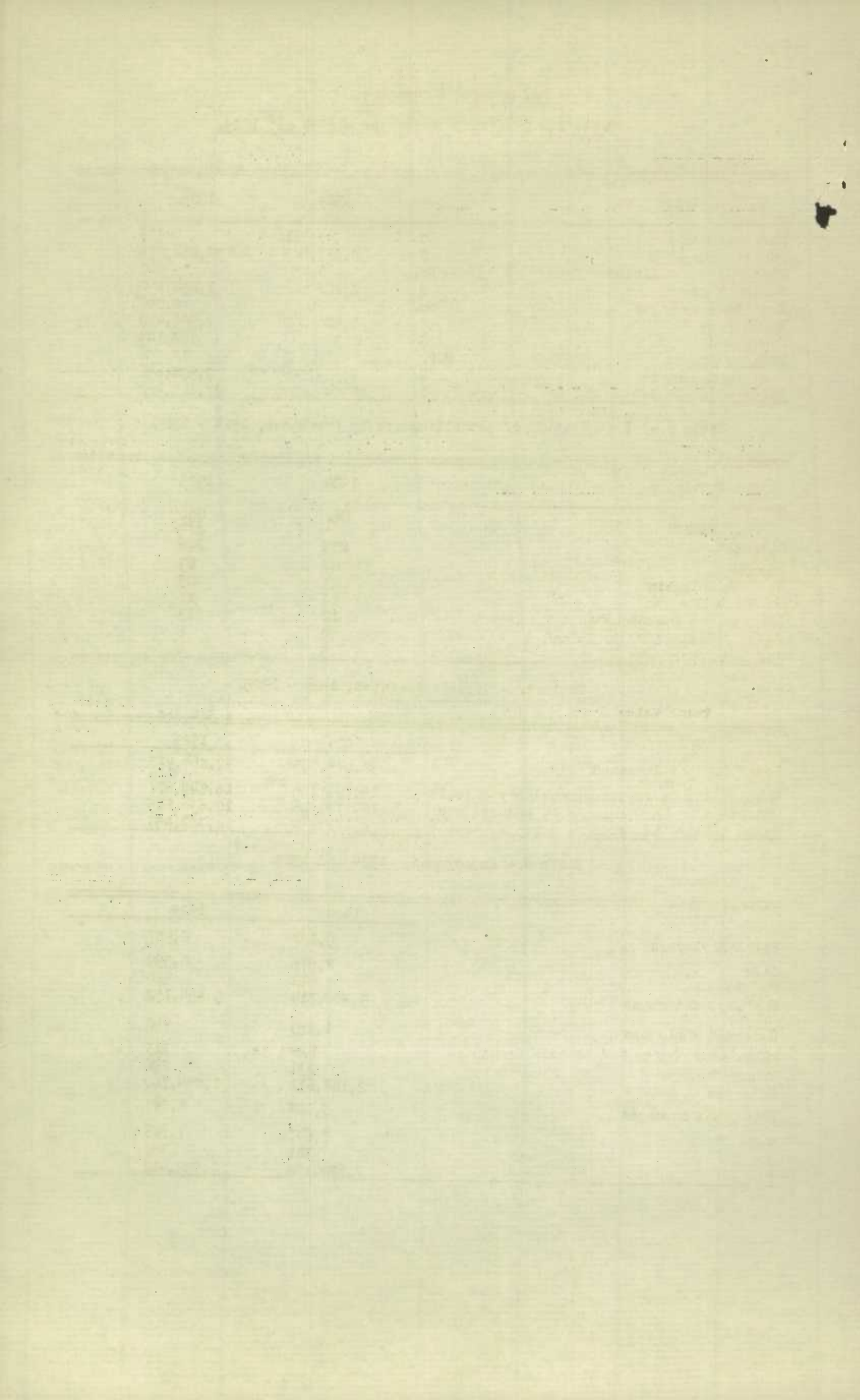
Provinces	1924	1925
CANADA	No. 371	No. 336
Ontario	235	208
Quebec	67	63
British Columbia	27	25
Manitoba	16	17
Alberta and Saskatchewan	12	13
Nova Scotia and P. E. Island	9	6
New Brunswick	5	4

Table 3. - Capital Invested, 1924 - 1925.

		1924	1925
Total Capital Invested	\$	32,077,005	32,864,975
Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery & tools		15,423,155	15,840,677
Materials on hand, stocks in process, etc.		10,172,316	10,636,845
Cash, trading and operating stocks, etc.		6,481,534	6,387,453

Table 4.- Employment, 1924 and 1925.

	1924	1925
Total Employees	9,187	8,987
Male	8,575	8,399
Female	612	588
Salaries and wages	9,808,714	9,454,152
Salaried Employees	1,159	940
Male	928	713
Female	231	227
Salaries	2,188,612	1,854,740
Employees on wages	8,028	8,047
Male	7,647	7,686
Female	381	361
Wages	7,620,102	7,599,412



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THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY

Table 5. - Fuel Used, 1924 and 1925

Kinds of Fuel	1924		1925	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Total		\$ 374,133		368,143
Bituminous coal	tons 44,405	309,673	42,939	303,510
Anthracite coal	" 1,104	12,219	1,276	9,987
Lignite coal	" 27	75	103	750
Coke	" 764	9,502	433	5,389
Gasoline	gal. 9,077	1,928	3,880	1,261
Fuel oil	" 98,683	10,098	24,309	14,404
Wood	cords 4,843	20,977	3,956	15,890
Gas	m.c.t. 2,617	2,547	4,078	2,776
Other fuel	\$ -	7,154	-	9,176

Table 6.- Power employed, 1924 and 1925.

Power Units	1924		1925	
	No.	H.P.	No.	H.P.
Total Power generated	556	18,759	690	18,556
Stationary engines -				
Steam	105	11,007	99	10,766
Oil, gas and gasoline	8	118	9	123
Hydraulic turbines	3	620	6	655
Electric motors, purchased power	540	7,014	576	7,012
Electric motors, generated power	136	1,667	225	2,444
Boilers installed	135	13,678	133	14,337

Table 7.- Materials Used, 1924 and 1925.

Materials	Quantity		Value	
	1924	1925	1924	1925
Total Value	-	-	\$ 9,324,556	\$ 9,928,696
Sawn Lumber for furniture or packing -				
softwood M.ft. b.m.	15,787	20,583	621,248	694,665
" " " " hardwood " "	51,862	46,030	2,358,670	2,787,893
Veneer and plywood M. surf. ft.	12,784	13,172	443,349	491,831
All other materials, containers, and mill supplies	xxxxxx	xxxxxx	5,901,289	5,954,307

Table 8 - Products Manufactured 1924 and 1925.

Products	1924	1925
	\$	\$
Total Value	25,843,620	27,110,462
Bedroom furniture	4,514,498	5,112,469
Diningroom "	4,220,111	4,353,587
Parlour "	1,702,081	1,475,464
Kitchen "	694,979	922,934
All other household furniture	2,719,171	2,883,501
Upholstering and mattresses	3,181,281	3,363,345
Office and store fixtures	2,747,181	2,709,389
School, lodge, church and theatre furniture	1,091,105	948,936
Radio, Phonograph and Player Roll Cabinets	532,327	885,214
Wicker, Rattan, Reed and Willow furniture	74,300	621,369
All other cabinetwork	552,521	508,754
Baby Carriages	60,000	108,520
Frames (furniture)	-	93,781
Refrigerators	-	31,550
Amount received for repairs	1,535,497	739,865
All other products	1,928,770	2,351,778

Table 9 - Exports and Imports of Furniture.
(Fiscal years ending March 31st.)

	1924-5	1925-6
Imports	\$ 1,313,723	\$ 1,291,183
Exports	300,906	405,270

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